



**Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**



Sixth Class students from Ratheniska School together with Fr. Ciprian celebrating their Graduation Mass in Stradbally Woods. More photos on the back cover.



Photos courtesy of Shane Redmond.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie

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Travelling Light



We only need to check the spam in our emails or listen to our answer phones to understand the constant worldly pressures in our lives. Unless you've managed to blank all those nuisance calls, it's more likely that your answer phone will be filled with adverts for injury claims,

insurance refunds and pension plans than calls from friends. Whilst commercialism grows louder and louder, the Christian message seems quieter and less popular. We think that 'good' might speak for itself, but it seems that Jesus' teaching needs promoting now more than ever. For this purpose Jesus gives us some practical advice.

"Travel light" Jesus tells his missionaries, "no purse, no bag, no sandals," It seems austere advice for missionaries about to embark on an arduous journey, but it makes sense. The less the missionaries had to worry about, the more focussed they would be on the task in hand. The same goes for us tenfold. Think how much our worldly concerns slow us down. We might have some inspirational life changing ideas with which to change the world, but first we have to fix the washing machine, pay the mortgage, fill in a tax return, vacuum the car and bath the dog. The life changing ideas will just have to wait until tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. Travelling light goes deeper. Jesus knows how much importance we humans attach to possessions. Jesus knows how easy it is for our possessions to possess us! Do we work to live or live to work? Is the house a roof over our head while we live, or do we live to pay the mortgage? Does the car get us to work in the morning, or do we go to work to pay for the car?

Jesus' second strategy is to stay with those who extend a welcome but not to entertain a town that does not offer a welcome. Today we would call it knowing our audience. We have to know when to promote Jesus' teaching, but we also have to know when the time or the situation is not right.

This gospel speaks to us all and that isn't a comfortable thought. Perhaps we've never imagined ourselves as evangelists. Unlike the evangelists in this story, we have no special powers to cast out evil, but we all have the power to spread goodness and kindness. We might feel small in the face of impacting our beliefs on an unbelieving world, but we've huge advantages over those first missionaries who had to evangelise in completely uncharted territory. Working with small numbers in a hostile climate without the modern advantages of computers or television, those early missionaries spread a message that exists two thousand years later. How much easier it ought to be for each of us today.

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

Monday - Friday: 7.30am & 10am

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.

What Can We Learn from the Elderly?



It's easy for young people to imagine there isn't much they can learn from their older relatives. It's easy to imagine that because someone is in a wheelchair or has grown forgetful that they don't have much to offer in a world that favours a technically savvy fast moving youth. What we might overlook however is that there isn't much we live through that our older relatives haven't lived through first. Our older relatives know how we are feeling because they've already 'done it and bought the T Shirt!' Our older relatives have learned resilience. How did they get there? How can we emulate this? What advice could they give us? This month Pope Francis invites us to join his prayer intention

.... We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility."



We welcome into our Parish Community

Nova Skye Wheatley,
Buttercup Avenue, Esker Hills

Paddy Thomas O'Mahony,
Aghnaharna Drive

Noah Daniel Brady Curtin,
Rossvale Court

Who were baptised last weekend.



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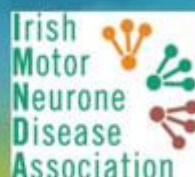
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RELIGIOUS NOTES:

**St. Joseph's Young Priests Society Pilgrimage to
Our Lady's Island, Wexford**, the oldest Marian Shrine
in Ireland, 24th July, ceremonies start 3pm.

Emmanuel House of Providence, Clonfert

Day of Reflection and Prayer led by Eddie Stones and
team, 2nd July at 11am. Talks, praise, music, Rosary,
confessions, Eucharist. Please bring a packed lunch.

**The Relics of St. Therese and her parents St. Louis
and St. Zelig** will visit the Carmelite Church, White
Abbey, Kildare Town, Tuesday 12th July. Masses at 8am,
10am and 7.30pm. Veneration 8am until after 7.30pm
Mass. Everyone welcome. For further information contact
Marcie Sweeney Duggan on 085-8887549.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 28th June:

Top score: Rose Cole

1st Lady: Patricia Horan

2nd Lady: Trudy Nealon

1st Gent: Catherine Brennan

2nd Gent: Frank Keenan

1st Half: Molly O' Brien

2nd Half: Betty Shrahan

Raffle: 1st Catherine Galvin

3rd Mary J. Dunne

5th Catherine Brennan



2nd Bridie Kennedy

4th Patricia Horan

Thanks to everyone for their support. Whist continues
every Tuesday in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

Portlaoise Active Retirement; Our Meitheal show came
to fruition on Friday evening 24th June and it was an
outstanding success. We played to a full house in the
Parish Centre and it was a great evening of music, song,
dance, monologue and sketches etc. Congratulations to all
who took part or helped in any way.

Bowls will continue every Monday afternoon at 3pm in
St. Mary's Sports hall, all are welcome.

Cards will continue every Thursday afternoon at 3pm in
Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy, all are welcome.

Our club is closing for July and August, we will
probably arrange a days outing in July and August, details
will be announced later. A 5-day holiday has been booked
for Inishowen gateway hotel in Donegal for 10th October,
€355 p.p.s. B&B and evening dinner, luxury coach and
tours. Hope everyone has a good holiday and comes back
for more fun and activities and friendships.

Laois branch of Irish Guide Dogs will hold a meeting in
the Parish Centre at 7.30pm, Tuesday 5th July to elect a
new committee to carry on the work of volunteering for
Guide dogs in Laois, all are welcome to attend.

**Fisherstown Tractor and Truck Run in aid of Laois
Hospice Palliative Care;** This Sunday 3rd July, 12 noon,
behind the Final Furlong, Ballybrittas. Food, live music and
children's amusements. All are welcome, please support.

**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.*

PORTLAOISE PARISH LOURDES COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHARING AND TICKET DISTRIBUTION EVENING

The above committee will be distributing 'flight
tickets' and all information regarding luggage,
departure times etc. at 7pm sharp on 4th July 2022
in the Parish Centre. We invite all those travelling
to please attend this meeting. Lourdes Mass
Bouquets will be available for sale on the night if
anyone wishes to purchase them prior to departure,
please bring your list of names. Cards will also be
available to purchase during the Pilgrimage.

Anyone wishing to have a petition brought to
Lourdes can place it in the box beside Our Lady in
the Parish Church, on or before 8th July.



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Harvest Time

An old farmer sat on the steps of his small shack chewing on a piece of straw. He was approached by a passing stranger who was looking for a cool drink of water. Wishing to start a conversation with the farmer, the stranger asked,

"How is your cotton crop coming this year?"

"I ain't got none", replied the farmer.

"Didn't you plant any?" asked the stranger.

"Nope," said the farmer,

"I was afraid the boll weevils would get it."

"Well," asked the stranger, "how is your corn?"

"Didn't plant any corn either," replied the man,

"I was afraid there wasn't going to be any rain."

"If you didn't plant any cotton or corn, what did you plant?" asked the man.

"Nothing," said the farmer. "I just played it safe!"

Well, I guess if you don't plant anything, it makes the harvest a lot easier, doesn't it?

In the Gospel today, Jesus sent out people to bring in the harvest. The harvest Jesus was talking about was not cotton, fruit or vegetables. He was sending out workers to bring people into the kingdom of God. He said that there were many souls who were ready to be harvested, but there were not enough workers. One reason it was hard to find workers was that it was very difficult work. Jesus warned that the workers in his kingdom would often be treated very unkindly.

Jesus is still looking for people who will work for him and bring people into his kingdom. That is what the church is supposed to do. It won't always be easy. In fact, it will be hard. Many people in the church are like the farmer in our story -- they are "just playing it safe." I have heard that eight out of ten church members have never invited anyone to church and that nine out of ten church members have never won anyone to Christ. How about you? Are you willing to work for Jesus and invite people to come to church? Will you go and tell people about Jesus' love and that he died on the cross so that they could have everlasting life? There are many souls who are need to be brought into God's kingdom, but there just aren't enough workers.

"The Harvest

is plentiful,

but the

Laborers

are

few..."

Luke
10:2



Dear Father,

Father, we want to be faithful workers telling others about Jesus and his love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





Jesus Sends Out Workers

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every _____ and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The _____ is _____, but the _____ are _____. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like _____ among _____. Do not take a _____ or bag or _____; and do not greet anyone on the road.



"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his _____. Do not move around from house to house.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| few | lambs | purse | town |
| wolves | harvest | plentiful | |
| sandals | wages | workers | |

LAUGH A MINUTE



Q. When is a vet's busiest time?

A. When it is raining cats and dogs and there are poodles on the road.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson - he brought the house down.



Q. How many feet are in a yard?

A. It depends on how many people are standing there.



The message in our Gospel today is that Jesus asks his disciples to take with them whenever they go is a message of peace. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of peace. Some will welcome the message and others will not. The disciples must, however, stand firm in the obstacles they encounter.



Time to Think!

SUMMER. . . . A TIME TO REST



Despite all the bad news, regarding huge queues and cancellation of scheduled air flights, it is still wonderful that Dublin International Airport, enjoys a return to full and active business, this summer. After over two years, living in confinement and restriction, so many Irish families seek liberation and warmth as they make preparations for their annual summer holiday. A recent swim in county Wexford brought with it rich memories of my childhood and our late father bringing us out to sea, to swim with him. As schools have now closed for summer holidays, I pray that the weeks ahead, will be a time of relaxation and family peace. We all know the importance of road safety and indeed water safety. May God bless our annual summer holidays, with health of body and Peace of Mind. May God's angels watch over and protect us all. The brightness of summer nourishes our souls to hope, to be replenished and renewed.

Our search for that peace and spiritual joy brings us hope and consolation. Recently a friend, suggested that I read a small but most insightful gem of wisdom and knowledge, called, "Who will cry when you die". This book is born out of our human need for validation, dignity and purpose. In a time, when the burden and pain of hopelessness and anxiety is felt by so many, this book offers tremendous encouragement and hope. Nuggets of wisdom fuelled by spiritual values that help us all to live better lives. Would you like to replace that empty feeling inside you with a deep sense of peace, passion, and purpose? Are you hoping that your life will not only be successful but significant? Are you ready to have the very best within you shine through and create a rich legacy in the process? If so, this potent little book, with its powerful life lessons and its gentle but profound teaching can transform and point us in a more positive pathway through life.

The first time I heard about Robin Sharma, was through his writings. A local librarian recommended me to read his book -'The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari'. It was one of the best books which I have read. All of Robin Sharma's books have been published in 60 countries and in 70 languages. This makes him one of the most widely read authors in the world. His books have been highly successful in Japan, Spain, England, Dubai, Mexico, Singapore, Turkey, Puerto Rico and throughout South America. His website 'www.robinsharma.com' is one of the most popular personal development destinations on the internet.

'Who Will Cry When You Die' is a wonderful book to read. Rather than calling it a book, I call it "wisdom for the journey" or "101 tips for living life fully". The beauty of this book, is that every chapter can be read independently and you don't need to worry whether you start from middle or end or the beginning. The chapters too are very short ones and can be even read in 10 minutes break.

It has got gems of tips which can be practically used in day to day life and can enhance quality of life in a much profound way. Though all chapters are worth reading I would like to point out some of the chapters which did appeal to me personally more out here.

One such chapter is 'Honor Your Past'. The reason this chapter appealed to me was because I consider past or rather failures in past being biggest obstacles for humans to become what he/she is capable of becoming. Quite often we regret events or things which have happened in the past and rather than looking at it in a detached way and learning from it, we spend too much energy on reliving the painful memories of the past. Instead of honouring your past, we tend to analyse and over analyse.

Another chapter is titled 'Spend A Day Without A Watch'. When I first saw the title, I was like 'how is that possible?' Mobiles and watches are things without which many of us can't live without but as I looked back I could see that as a child I was not concerned with time and as I grew up deadlines started ruling me. Of course valuing time is extremely important but one can always spend a day without a watch. Isn't it?

There is also a chapter called 'Practice Forgiveness'. Easy to say but difficult to practice. Forgiveness sets two souls free. It is not an act of obliging someone, it is rather an act of obliging one self. When forgiveness is practiced genuinely, it is FREEDOM...Try it.

Lastly the most important chapter, is titled 'Write a Legacy Statement'. Why this is most important is because while writing the legacy statement, one would become conscious about what he/she stands for, what are the core values that one respects and what are his/her priority to start living accordingly.

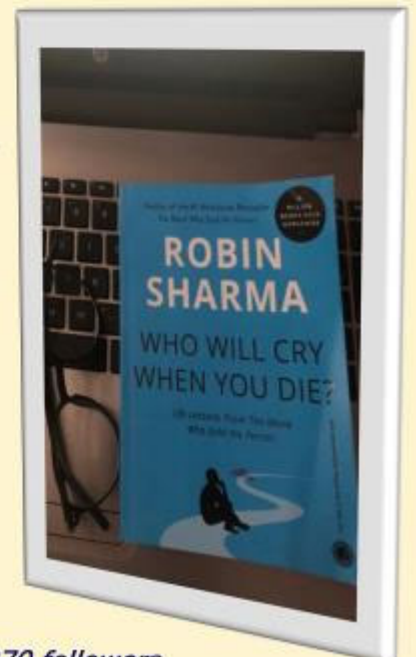
"Push yourself to do more and to experience more.

Harness your energy to start expanding your dreams.

Yes, expand your dreams. Don't accept a life of mediocrity when you hold such infinite potential within the fortress of your mind.

Dare to tap into your greatness."

— Robin S. Sharma



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 24,970 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



OUR COURSES – SEPTEMBER 2022

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- HEALTHCARE
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- SOCIAL STUDIES

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



Joan Graham

née Butler
Ferndale, Dublin Road,
Portlaoise

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to Joan's family

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

Our prayers are with the family of



*Baby Ozzie Michael
Rothwell*

Corran na Noir, Abbeyleix



**In Loving Memory of
OLIVER BARTLEY**

91 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurred 27th June 2022



Dad, I miss you everyday,
You were so precious and
unique, a guiding light
throughout my life,
You were my strength when
I was weak.
Happy memories flood my
mind whenever I think of you,
but you can never be replaced,
that much is sadly true.

The fact that you're no longer here still fills my
heart with pain, I wish I had just one last chance
to talk with you again.

I shall always remember the closeness we had,
I love you and miss you so much,
My kind and thoughtful Dad.

*Sadly missed, loved and forever remembered by his
daughter Monalisa, son-in-law Donal and
grandchildren Darryl and Stefan.*

No special time is needed for us to think of you,
To us you were someone special and we thought
the world of you,

Your memory is our greatest treasure,
To have, to love, and keep forever,
Time slips by, life goes on, but in our hearts you
are never gone.

*Loved and missed by his sons John, Oliver, Shay
and Darren, daughters-in-law, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren and the Bartley family.*

Oliver's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated this
Saturday 2nd July at 6:30pm in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church.

May Oliver Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
THOMAS MORAN**

Glynside, Portlaoise. 1st Anniversary occurs 7th July 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Sunday 3rd July at 11:15am.

*Wonderful memories of one so dear,
Treasured still with a love sincere,
In our hearts he is living yet,
We loved him too dearly to forget.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his wife Ethna,
daughter and sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren
and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Thomas

**In Loving Memory of
JOAN SAUNDERS**

Dublin Rd. Portlaoise. 7th Anniversary occurs 6th July 2022



Joan's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church on **Sunday 10th July at 12.30pm.**

*Your life was one of kindly deeds,
A helping hand for others needs,
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
Beautiful memories left behind.*

Loved and sadly missed by all your loving family.

May Joan Rest in Peace

80th Birthday Remembrance
In Loving Memory of
PETER KEOGH

Late of Borris Road, Portlaoise.
 80th Birthday occurred 29th June. Mass offered.



*Happy Heavenly Birthday Peter with all
 your family up above,
 I send you all my love today and
 tomorrow and forevermore.*

*Miss and cherish your memory forever
 Loved and deeply missed always by your
 loving Julie xxx*

May Peter Rest in Peace Forever

In Loving Memory of
JOHN-JOE & ANN
BENNETT

Hophall, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
 Anniversaries occur at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be
 celebrated in the Church of
 the Holy Cross, Ratheniska on
Sunday 10th July at 10am.

*No matter how we spend
 our days, regardless of
 what we do,
 Before we close our eyes
 at night, we always think
 of you.*

*We treasured all the years
 we shared and all the love
 you gave,*

*A loving nature, a heart of gold, the very best
 parents this world could hold.*

These are the memories you left behind.

Sadly missed by all their family and extended family.

May They Rest in Peace

† KEEGAN'S †
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Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

HENRY RANKIN
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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 (opposite the E.S.B. and Condell tractors)

Contact:
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 PAUL; 087-2562137
 NIALL;
 086-2770095



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"I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

1 John 2:14



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Ireland Invites you to

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RESIDENTIAL

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AUGUST
5TH-7TH

WORD OF GOD | HOLY MASS |
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Blessings

Led by

Venue: THE INTERNATIONAL
MAIN STREET
KNOCK
COUNTY MAYO



Register online: www.afcmireland.ie

Contact: Jaison John: 0892523699

Prince Tom: 0894656718

Rev. Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil Br. Jose Kuriakose

AFCM IRELAND

invites you to...

HOLY FIRE

4 day English Residential Retreat at Knock

STARTS JULY 18 @ 10:00 AM

ENDS JULY 21 @ 01:00 PM

Holy Mass
Word of God
Adoration
Confession



Led by:
Br. Thomas Paul



Blessings:
Fr. Xavier Khan
Vattayil

The international
main street
Knock, Co. Mayo

Open session:
July 21st
2pm - 5pm

For Registration:

Peggy: 087 123 6693
Margaret: 086 314 9610
Shibu: 087 774 0812

Registration fee: €50



"BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES
UPON YOU" ACTS 1:8



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.

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Ireland's annual national march for life

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
30th June 2022

10

13

18

30

No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Regina McCormack
Clare Downey
Ann O'Connell
Rory Chadwick
Fr Vard
Stephen Dwane
Emma Scully
Melissa Ryan
Maura Buggy

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Online Lotto
Online Lotto
Mary O'Connell
Lotto Gift
Peter Ryan
Thelma Brown
Tom Colohan
Parish Centre
Maura Buggy

Next Week's Jackpot is €13,000

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

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish
& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois



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

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
E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Peter's Pence Collection takes place at this time

The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters. Envelopes in Development Boxes. Thank you for your support.

Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of the collection baskets at Sunday Masses for support. *Thank you* to the many who have found new ways of continuing to support the Parish during this time of Lockdown. The generosity of so many means we **continue to** be well supported and can pay our way at this time.

Ways to contribute to our Parish

- Envelope boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
- Direct payment by cheque or cash
- Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church
- Donation facility on our website
- 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

