

**Twenty First Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

WE STAND WITH

UKRAINE

ART EXHIBITION

From Sunday 21st to Friday 2nd September at the Parish Centre.

An exhibition of works by Ukrainian Artist - Designer Oksana Rohovska will open after 12.30pm Mass. The art work will be available for sale in aid of the Parish Ukrainian Appeal. All are welcome.

Photo: Oksana Rohovska with her daughter Maria preparing for the exhibition.



**The Parish Centre 057 8621142
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie**

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



The Narrow Door

Surely the days of teaching about hell fire and damnation are gone. Surely our ever loving and forgiving God wouldn't exclude anyone from Heaven. Well according to today's gospel reading we can't bet on it! We might imagine Heaven's gates as big and welcoming, but today we hear that it may instead be a narrow door through which it might be difficult for us to gain entry... and worse, there's a time limit on how long it

might remain open.

Today's theme is a continuation of last week's. Today we are warned against complacency. Having the right books is no guarantee of passing the exam. Being baptised a Christian is no guarantee of a place in Heaven. Life is a testing ground in which we should be continually striving, continually bettering ourselves, continually increasing our understanding and forever moving forwards spiritually. We might think that because we attend Mass on Sunday and dip our hands in our pockets for the odd collection that we are doing all that is required. Are we going to be unpleasantly surprised to find ourselves at the back of Heaven's queue when we fondly imagined we might be somewhere near the front?

For all of us who think we've got it right think again! Have we really planned for eternity, or have we only planned as far as our next mortgage repayment? Have we really determined the priorities in our lives, or have we allowed life to shape us into something we never intended? Do we imagine we are good people simply because we have never done anything bad?

God is ever loving and forgiving, but we could exclude ourselves from Heaven simply by not striving to get there. Radical measures are needed today. What measures do we each need to adopt to earn our place at the narrow door?

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.



Saint Monica

Patron of domestic violence

27th August

The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations.

Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

On the feast of St Monica (27th August), patron of domestic violence, we pray for the needs of those who have suffered domestic violence ... whether it be men, women or children.



**We welcome into our
Parish Community**

Edson Mac Lyons, Adelaide

Blake Michael Phelan, Carmody Way

Cillian Alan McEvoy, Summerhill.

Who were baptised last weekend.

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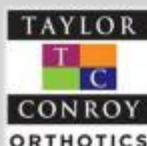
- Social Care or Health Care background required.
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At 7:30pm



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Portlaoise Concern Group CHURCH GATE COLLECTION 20th/21st August 2022

Your support is greatly needed. At the moment Concern is supporting millions of people in the horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya) facing the worst drought in 40 years. If anyone would like to help with the collection please tel.

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Portlaoise Active Retirement will reopen following the Summer recess, the first Wednesday in September and we will be taking deposits for the holiday in Donegal on 10th October. The deposits will need to be collected right away as there isn't a lot of time until 10th October. Bowls every Monday at 3pm in St. Mary's Sports hall and Cards every Thursday afternoon at 3pm in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy For information please contact Sheila (PRO) 087-6204617.

Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise, Saturday 27th August, 10am-1pm. Holy Mass at 10am. Confessions available. Retreat continues in the Sacristy behind the Altar, 10.45am-1pm. (Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry). All are welcome. Contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305.

Spiritual Director; Fr. Ruairi O' Domhnaill P.P.

GROW Mental Health meeting every Wednesday at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

Fatima Invalid Fund Church Gate Collection will be held 27th/28th August in Abbeyleix, Raheen, Ballyroan, Shanahoe and Ballinakill. All support greatly appreciated.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 16th August;

Top score: Tom Dunne

1st Lady: Bridie Kennedy

2nd Lady: Maureen Fitzpatrick

1st Gent: A.M. Farrell

2nd Gent: Trudy Nealon

1st Half: Rita Arrigan

2nd Half: Bob

Raffle: 1st Bob 2nd B. Murphy
3rd F. Gleeson 4th A. Brennan
5th M. O'Brien



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

Counselling: Accord Portlaoise are open for Relationship Counselling at The Parish Centre, Portlaoise. Counselling is completely confidential, all counsellors are fully trained. For further info. please contact Mary at 086-4149034 or e-mail accordportlaoise@gmail.com



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Our Virtual Congregation



There haven't been too many upsides to the pandemic caused by Covid-19 but one (and the only one I can think of) that we have welcomed is the many people from all over who join us virtually. Our 10am Mass is transmitted by Shalomworld.org and our own webcam and Parish Radio transmit all our Masses and services.

One of our virtual regulars, Bonnie Mando, from Binghampton, New York State has arranged to visit us in person in September as reported in her local paper, *the Binghampton Press and Sun Bulletin*.

Bonnie, who has been a regular part of our 'virtual congregation' since the early days of Covid-19 and has also been in regular contact with many members of the Parish team and music ministry. Earlier this year she was sent a brochure for Mount Saint Anne's Retreat Centre, Killenard, by Sr. Gabrielle Jin who made her first profession of vows as a Presentation Sister on St. Brigid's day. Bonnie joined in that celebration. The brochure provided her with what she says 'seemed like a perfect opportunity to attend a retreat in the lovely heartlands of the midlands of Ireland' her ancestral homeland. She was sold on the retreat and invited a handful of others to join her. They arrive in Ireland in early September. She is also looking forward to attending the Church and worshipping community that have meant so much to her over the past couple of years. She and her companions will be very welcome.

Bonnie joins us via Shalomworld.org who transmit our 10am Mass each day with up to 300,000 people from all over the World who are part of our virtual congregation. We have been enriched by their presence and are daily reminded of it by the many requests for prayer and intentions from various parts. This summer we have been delighted to welcome many of our virtual congregation in person, from as far away as the U.S., South Africa, New Zealand, U.K. and many parts of Ireland, who have formed this bond with us. It certainly has brought home to us that it is indeed 'a small World' and we are part of a Universal Church.

Back in December 2020 Bonnie Mando and her regular virtual attendance at our Masses was the subject of an article in her local paper in New York State.

The same publication now reports on her upcoming trip. In the article she says "I hope to experience a bit of the joy which the many people who work together to prepare the Liturgies enjoy. Hopefully, we'll be able to say hello to some of the people we've worshipped with and still have time to see the scenery in the lovely midlands area.

She also adds "we won't spend all our time in Church or on retreat. She expects they'll also experience 'a sprinkling of pub music."

We look forward to welcoming Bonnie and her friends and please God they will have a wonderful and memorable trip.

Woman 'attends' church across the ocean

By [Name]



Bonnie Mando

Bonnie Mando, 68, of Binghamton, N.Y., has been attending Mass virtually since the early days of the pandemic. She is a member of the Mount Saint Anne's Retreat Centre, Killenard, Ireland. She is also looking forward to attending the Church and worshipping community that have meant so much to her over the past couple of years. She and her companions will be very welcome.

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**TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC
CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION**

**FLOWER
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**PICNIC AND MUSIC
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SUNDAY 21 AUGUST**

**In Aid of Laois Offaly Families for Autism
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Booking Sessions: 11am-1pm, 1pm-3pm, 3pm-5pm

**Entry Fee: Donation. [Booking Essential](#)
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The last shall be first and the first last

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed. 'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'



PRAYER

Father, we thank you for Jesus, the only one to whom we can go for the gift of eternal life. In his name we pray. Amen.

**Blessing of school bags will
take place in the Parish Church
at 5pm and 6.30pm Masses
next Saturday (27th August).
Looking forward to seeing all
your beautiful schoolbags!**



Prayer for Students Returning to School

Loving God, we pray for all children as they prepare for a new season in their lives.

As they start school for the first time - give them joy in new experiences

As they move to new classes - give them confidence in growing friendships

As they move to new schools - give them strength in their growing independence

As they move on to college or university - give them wisdom in their maturity

And for all the teachers, assistants, helpers,
carers and volunteers who teach and nurture our children and young people,

we ask for your blessing, your joy,

your wisdom and your patience as they re-charge their batteries
over the summer break, ready for the new term!

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.



Parish Schools Re-opening dates

St. Francis, Monday 29th August

Holy Family Jnr & Snr, Wednesday 31st August

Scoil Bhríde, Wednesday 31st August

Gaelscoil, Wednesday 31st August

Ratheniska, Wednesday 31st August

Heath, Thursday 1st September

Being Punished....

In today's second reading, Saint Paul wrote to the Hebrews about being disciplined by God. When we are young God wants our parents to make sure we behave well. When we don't behave He wants them to discipline us so that we will learn to be good.

Our parents don't punish us just because they are angry at us; they do it because they really love us and want us to

learn to be better. Saint Paul says that the Lord disciplines the people that He loves.

Being punished is a painful thing, but we will be happy once we have learned our lesson and become a better person. Saint Paul says, "make straight path for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed." He means that when you are punished, you should stop doing the wrong thing so that you won't be hurt worse from the punishment, but will get better instead. So the next time you are disciplined or punished, remember that God is allowing it to help you become a better person.

If you can, even thank God for giving you the chance to make up for your sin and learn a good lesson!





Time to Think!

BROTHER KEVIN. . .A LIVING SAINT

A small number of public figures are instantly recognisable by their first name. One of them is Brother Kevin, the founder of the Capuchin Centre in Dublin's Bow Street who this week retired at the age of 87. He founded the centre in 1969 - more than 50 years ago, and from small beginnings it has grown to a major operation, vital to the lives of so many.

It is a remarkable achievement and an extraordinary record of Christian service to the community of Dublin's Inner City. That Brother Kevin deserves our appreciation is clear, many of us see and read about his work at Christmas, but this is a year-round operation which has helped the lives of so many, feeding them, supporting them and always treating them with dignity. Few others will have touched and helped so many in a lifetime. Brother Kevin, and the many workers and volunteers who help him in the centre should be proud.

In his own way, Brother Kevin has spoken up for the poorest in society. Strikingly, he has commented that it is sad that there is still a need for the Capuchin centre after all these years. That there is, and on such a scale, tells us something of the inadequacy of our social safety net. No system is perfect, but too many in our society remain afflicted by homelessness, hunger and lack of hope for the future. The crisis of homelessness is clearly central to this, and the legacy of years when too few homes were built still looms large. So too, as Br. Kevin outlines, is the scourge of drugs, now again at deeply concerning levels. These are big challenges to State social services and the cost of living crisis will only make the situation worse.

After Brother Kevin leaves, the work of the centre will go on, supported mainly by donations and also the exchequer. The challenge for the State is to tackle more effectively the problems which end up with people queueing for a meal at the centre. Brother Kevin Crowley will leave the centre next week and will go to live with his family in West Cork. He has said he will miss Dublin, but Dublin especially the most vulnerable will miss him even more.

In many ways Kevin Crowley, personified the Risen Christ, to those on the periphery of our



society. The periphery was where Jesus was most present, in his short time as he walked among us. The thought recently struck me, that the risen Christ, who remains present to every generation in a new and refreshing way, would have much to speak and challenge regarding inequality, injustice and prejudice in our present society. Jesus in 2022 I'm sure would not be found wanting in rolling up his sleeves and embracing the most wounded in our society. Brother Kevin lived a very practical spirituality grounded in the gospel and inspiration from the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. A prophet is grounded in reality and yet courageous in witnessing the good news.

Often in life we don't fully appreciate what we have, till it is taken from us, be that our health, our job, a loved one..... Gratitude is a very positive attitude and instils within us a sense of hopefulness. Kevin Crowley, is a very happy man in giving to so many, he has received much love and affection from so many people. As Brother Kevin retires, we should remember the poor we still have with us, in ever greater numbers because of wars, famine, and drug and alcohol addiction.

A prayer of St. Francis of Assisi;

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy".

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 25,500 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



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ART CLASSES FROM SEPTEMBER 5TH

Art Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
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ADULT		10.30am - 12.30pm	10.30am - 12.30pm
JUNIOR 4-YRS		4-5pm	3.15pm - 4.15pm
SENIOR 8-YRS	4pm - 5pm	5.30pm - 6.30pm	4.30pm - 5.30pm
TEEN	5.15pm - 6.15pm	-	6-7pm
ADULT	6.30pm - 8.30pm	7-9pm	7.30pm - 9.30pm

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What do Healthcare Chaplains do?

Chaplains are professionals who provide spiritual, religious and emotional care to people in many different settings. As a chaplain, you will listen to people who are in a very vulnerable place. You'll celebrate with families who have received great news. You'll mark the beginning of lives, the end of lives and the many transforming moments in between.

What training do I need?

Board certification is required for employment as a chaplain. The Healthcare Chaplaincy Board (HCB) offers certification to Roman Catholics who: **1** Hold a degree in Theology (NFQ Level 8). **2** Complete H Dip or Masters in Pastoral Theology (Healthcare Chaplaincy) or 3 units of Clinical Pastoral Education. **3** Successfully meet the HCB Standards for Healthcare Chaplaincy.

Bursary

For candidates accepted on a recognised Theology course, undergraduate or postgraduate that fulfils the theological requirement for Certification as a Healthcare Chaplain, a BURSARY is available through the HCB. Details on request from the HCB.

Healthcare Chaplaincy Board

- A sub-committee of the Council for Healthcare of the Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference
- www.catholicbishops.ie/healthcare/
- Email: InformationHCBoard@gmail.com

The Bursary is provided by the Bon Secours Health System



Divine Mercy Portlaoise Pilgrimage
Medjugorje, June 2022



Annual Cemetery Mass in the Heath



More photos on our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie

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



Terry Downey

New Road
Portlaoise



Breda Keane

née Kelly
Corrigreen, Stradbally

John Fintan (Jack) Lalor

Blackrock, Dublin and formerly Ratheniska
John's Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 22nd
August at 10am in the Church of St. John the Baptist,
Blackrock followed by burial in
Church of Holy Cross, Ratheniska Cemetery.

*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

**In Loving Memory of
MARY-EMMA FERGUS**

A wonderful Mother and Grandma
3rd Anniversary occurs 23rd August 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 21st August at 12:30pm.

Deep are the memories,
Precious they stay,
No passing of time,
Can take them away.

Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered by her
husband Bryan, daughters Siobhán and Bebhinn,
grandson Lorcán and son-in-law Paul.

Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
BRENDAN BURNS**

Block Road, Portlaoise
5th Anniversary occurs 23rd August 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Sunday 28th August at 12:30pm.

We miss your smile, your joking ways,
We miss the things you used to say,
And when old times we do recall,
It's then we miss you most of all,

You were always there when we needed you,
No task too great or small.

With loving heart and willing hands, for us you did it all.

*Sadly missed by his daughters Margaret, Mary and
Brigid, sons-in-law Pat, Seamus and Joe, grandchildren
Megan, James, Sarah, Shane, Lauren, Mark, Joanne
and husband Patrick, Michelle and husband Conor,
great-grandchildren Patrick, James and Jane Mai.*

Rest in Peace Dad

**In Loving Memory of our lovely Sister
BARBARA LAWLOR**

née Breen
Dublin and formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 23rd August 2022



Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us day by day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and forever dear.

*Always remembered by your
sisters Moira & Vera and
brothers Liam & Tom.*

Rest in Peace Barbara

In Loving Memory of MAURA SHEERAN

26 Balladine, Abbeylax and formerly of
Graceswood, Durrow.
5th Anniversary occurred 18th August 2022.



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 and always remembered by your son
Joe Jacob, relatives and friends.*

Rest in Peace Maura

In Loving Memory of PATRICIA LaCUMBER

1 Parnell Crescent, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurs 22nd August 2022



Patricia's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church this Saturday 20th August at 6.30pm.

*Our thoughts are ever with you,
Though you have passed away,
And those who have loved you dearly,
Are thinking of you today.*

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all her loving family.

Rest in Peace Patricia

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH (Betty) KEEGAN

8 Beechfield and formerly Market Sq. Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurs 25th August 2022.



*Though your smile is gone forever,
And your hand we cannot touch,
We shall never lose sweet memories,
Of you, we loved so much.*

*Gone from our home your smiling face,
Your cheerful pleasant ways,
The heart that won so many friends,
In bygone happy days.*

*Your voice keeps whispering gently,
Loved ones be brave and true,
At the end of life there is sunshine,
I'll be waiting and watching for you.*

Also remembering her loving husband,
Peter Keegan, who died 18th February 1992.



*Fondly remembered and always in our thoughts,
from all your loving family*

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of A Caring, Funny, Loving Mother, Sister and Nanny

ANNIE GREENE

74 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary away from home occurs 21st August 2022



To a Dearest Mother

If we could visit Heaven on this our
saddest day, maybe for a moment our
pain would go away.

We'd put our arms around you and
whisper words so true, that living life
without you is so very hard to do.

We cannot bring the old days back when
we were all together, but loving thoughts
and memories will stay with us forever.

Missing you today and everyday Mommy

*Love from your daughter Mary, grandson Keelin,
sister Ellie and the Greene family.*



Also remembering our father, Thomas,
whose 13th Anniversary away from home
occurred 12th July.

*Rest in Peace
Mommy and Daddy*

**In Loving Memory of
BRIDGET MILLS**
St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
Birthday Remembrance; 19th August 2022.



On your Heavenly birthday Mammy
Miss you and love you more everyday,
Even more on your special day,
Everyday was special when you
were here.

*Love you and miss you so much,
Jean, Ian and Katie xxx
Rest in Peace Bridget*

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
18th August 2022



No €19,000 Jackpot Winner

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Bartle & Saoirse

MATCH 3s €1,000

PROMOTER

Lotto Gift

Richard Phelan

2
Match
3s
€500
Each

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www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

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



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605

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
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Kathleen Sherry safeguarding@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

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