

**Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

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Must Be Prepared

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms.



Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.' Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?' And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, "My master is delayed in coming", and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

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.

St Lawrence 10th August

Saint Lawrence was martyred for outwitting a Roman prefect and for standing firm in the face of persecution. A saint with a modern day message, from St Lawrence we learn to always stand against those who seek to destroy us and persecute us for our beliefs in Jesus Christ and His Church. With great confidence and fortitude, we too can overcome the challenges that stand before us. Throughout the world, many of us are being faced with a threat against our religious freedom. We must stand against such tyranny and battle for our freedoms.



Prayer: O Generous patron of the Church's poor, St. Lawrence, pray to the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that all the poor of the Church in need in every corner of the world may feel the effect of the love of their brothers and sisters who seek to help them.

We welcome into our Parish Community



Fáilte

Grace Áine Hegarty, Clonkeen

Oisín Ollie Dowling, Dunamais

Michael Patrick Donoghue,
Essex Hills

Lauren Molly Douglas Haslam,
Borris Avenue

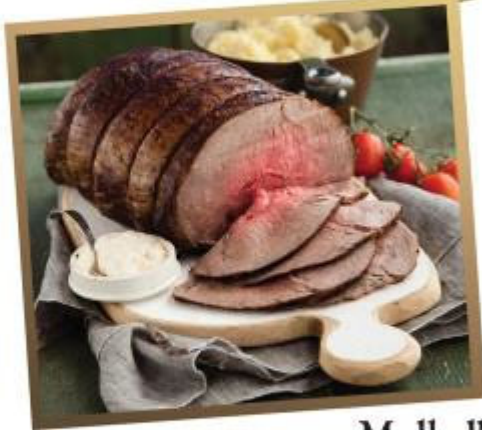
Cillian Patrick O'Brien, Berryridge Avenue

Éabha Hannah O'Dwyer, Cosby Avenue

Who were baptised last weekend.

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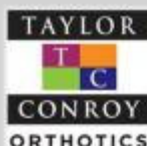
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The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church,
Saturday 13th August in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners. Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm.
All are welcome.

CIVILS COMPANY REQUIRES DIGGER DRIVER AND GROUND WORK

A Civils company based in south Laois, requires workers for immediate start. We are especially looking for a digger driver and perhaps one or two ground workers.

Experience in site work would be an advantage, but reliability and the ability to work with a small team is paramount, as training will be given. Good conversational English required.

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Register your interest with John Egan 087-1254841, Kitty Timmons 087-9506634, Chris Lacey 086-1987596 or Tully Travel Carlow 059-9163100

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7th-15th September 2023

Spiritual Director; Msgr. John Byrne.
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Monday 15th August, 2022

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The Fatima Invalid Fund

13th/14th August 2022

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Ratheniska and Emo

Your support is greatly appreciated.

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 alot of time until 10th October.

Bowls will resume Monday 8th August, 3pm in St. Mary's Sports hall and Cards will continue in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy every Thursday afternoon at 3pm.

For information please contact Sheila (PRO) 087-6204617.

Alzheimer's Society of Ireland Laois Branch have vacancies for healthcare workers on our community employment scheme in Laois. Full driving licence is required. For further information please contact Ann Munnely on 086-8372168.

RELIGIOUS NOTES:

Tullore Cemetery Mass; Thursday 11th August, 7pm.

Cromague Cemetery Mass; Monday 15th August, 7pm.

Join with us to pray the Rosary via Portlaoise 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.

Rosary at the Shrine, Market Square, Portlaoise;
This Sunday 7th August at 2:30pm.

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Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 2nd August:

Top score: Bridie Kennedy & Tom Jacob

1st Lady: Sadie Chester

2nd Lady: Bob

1st Gent: Frank Keenan

2nd Gent: Catherine Fitzpatrick

1st Half: Trudy Nealon

2nd Half: Willie Carroll

Raffle: 1st P. Horan 2nd B. Kennedy
3rd B. Cahill 4th A. M. Fennell
5th S. Chester



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

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

Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club presents their 2nd Steam Threshing Festival this Sunday 7th August 2022 from 12 noon. Vintage tractors, cars, machinery, working demonstrations, free parking, stalls, music, crafts, auto-jumble and more. Ballylusk, Ballyfin, Laois, R32CX39. For queries or additional info. on the Ballyfin Vintage and Veteran Club, please call Pat O'Connor 087-7824481 or Robert Armitage 087-2317598. Pre-registration for stalls required.



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Treasures In Heaven

Do you have a piggy bank at home? How often do you put money in it? I know some people who, at the end of each day, put all of the change from their pockets into a piggy bank. It may not be a lot of money, but when you add to it every day, it is amazing how quickly it builds up.

Whether we use a piggy bank or a savings account at the bank, it is a good idea to have a plan to save money for unexpected emergencies or when we want to do something special. One thing we have to be careful of is that the treasure that we are building doesn't become the most important thing in our life. Jesus warned about that in teaching his followers about money. He told them that they should not worry so much about building up treasures on earth, but that they should concentrate on building up treasures in heaven.

Treasures in heaven? How do we build up treasures in heaven? Jesus taught that one way to build up treasures in heaven is to give money to the poor. Can you think of some other ways that we might build up treasure in heaven? I think we build up treasure in heaven when we do things to help others. Things like:

- Visiting the sick
- Helping to feed the hungry
- Being cheerful and thoughtful to someone who is sad
- Praying for one another
- Working in a shelter for the homeless
- Being a friend to someone who is lonely
- Forgiving someone who has hurt you
- Saying you're sorry when you hurt someone



All of these are things that we can do here on earth that will be stored up as the "treasures in heaven" about which Jesus spoke. They may not seem like much, but if we do something for someone each and every day, it is amazing how quickly they add up.

PRAYER

Father, we may never have much in the way of earthly treasure, but help us to be faithful each day in building up treasures in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Our Sisters made the Independent during the week climbing Croagh Patrick - Sr Jasmin, Sr Sybil and Sr Mareena. They assured me they prayed for all sinners so thank you Sisters as that includes most of us. Photo credit: Michael McLaughlin (*Independent.ie*)



Portlaoise Boxing Club

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PORTLAOISE BOXING CLUB

We wish Eddie Harty the very best of luck as he heads to Turkey on Sunday to take part in the European Junior Boxing Championship at 60kg. Photo: Pat Ryan, Eddie's trainer, Eddie, Msgr. John, and John Harty (Eddie's father).



Time to Think!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

The following is a profound and yet very real story, told in relation to our human need in times of crisis as we turn to prayer. So often we can judge and be negative when we evaluate our communication to God. Perhaps the conversation seems one way. Perhaps words are inadequate or simply we do not know what to say. This ancient tale might resonate with an experience in our lives when in crisis we may have been lost for words as we try to pray.

In a time of plague and hardship, hundreds of years ago, oxen were dragging wagons full of fresh corpses to the lime-pits outside the local village. There is no one to bless their burial because the parish priest has already died from his risky sick-calls. The little village juggler begins to fear for his life. How will his wife and his small child manage if he catches the plague? He decides to pray. So he steals into the parish church that he only visits at Easter because the Church law obliges him. He kneels in front of the altar; but he hasn't a prayer. What can he say to God Almighty, that stern magistrate? Instead, he stands in front of a statue of Our Lady, and he tries to recite the Hail Mary, but it's been too long since the last time he blessed himself. The words of that small prayer are beyond him, let alone the litanies he learned as a child. 'I shall pray in my own words' says the little juggler. 'I shall speak from the heart to the Virgin Mother. She was a villager too.' But the little juggler has no knack for the smooth sentences he wants. Whistling at women and cursing the world are his usual way. He is dumb. And then he thinks: 'I shall do what I do best. I shall juggle for her!' He takes the balls from his pouch and begins to throw them, there and then, in the empty Lady-chapel. First slowly, now swiftly, one, two, three, higher and higher the little juggler spins them until there are four, five, seven in the air, dancing like planets in the dust-clouds, the Galilean satellites of Jupiter. Suddenly, out of nowhere, the sacristan appears, rude and red-faced. He punches the little juggler in the belly with his broomstick and he says: 'Do you not know where you are, you ignoramus? Do you not know?' But the statue of Our Lady softens and smiles and laughs aloud. She leans down to the little juggler from her tilting plinth and she wipes his sweaty forehead with the palm of her hand.

I firmly believe we will be most surprised at how compassionate and present our God is in our day to day lives when we meet our creator face to face. God asks us to be nobody other than who we really are. In a culture that often places huge emphasis on the external our creator God is much more concerned and indeed in love with our unique interior lives.



Yes we are sacred. Yes we are a blessed and chosen people. Often it is our weakness, our scars and bruises that our God blesses and heals most. The next time we turn to God, we may not have to juggle but simply say 'it's me Lord', and be prepared for the wonderful response of God's blessing.

Slow Me Down Prayer:

Slow me down, Lord, Slow me down!
Ease the pounding of my heart
By the quieting of my mind
Give me amid the confusion of my day,
The calmness of the everlasting hills
Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles
With soothing music of the singing stream
That live in my memory.
Help me to know the magical restoring power of sleep.
Teach me the art of taking a minute vacation,
Of slowing down to look at a flower,
To chat to a friend, to pat a dog,
To read a few lines of a good book.
Remind me each day of the fable of the Hare and the Tortoise, that I may know that the race is not always to the swift -
There is more to life than increasing speed.
Let me look upward into the branches of the flowing oak and know that it is great and strong because it grew slowly and well.
Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me
To send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values, that I may grow toward the stars of my great destiny.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 25,400 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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



Catherine Bergin

Liogard
Portlaoise



Tom Phelan

Clonkeen, Portlaoise and
formerly Ballinakill



Danny O' Loughlin

St. Brigid's Place
Portlaoise



Thomas Maher

Hillview Drive, Knockmay
Portlaoise



Barry O' Callaghan

Newpark
Portlaoise



Pamela O' Byrne

née Fennell
Newbridge and formerly
6 Grattan St. Portlaoise

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
MARGARET (Peg) CASEY**

Beechfield, Portlaoise. 6th Anniversary occurs 16th August.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise,
Sunday 14th August at 11.15am.

*Even though you are not with us,
Your presence is still strong,
Because in your heart we'll always find,
The love for which we long.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by Liam, Diarmuid,
Denise, Emma and Anna.*

May Margaret Rest in Peace

50TH ANNIVERSARY

**In Loving Memory of our dear Mother,
Grandmother and Great-grandmother
BRIDGET (Birdie) DUNNE**

31 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

50th Anniversary occurs 9th August 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Church, Portlaoise, on
Tuesday 9th August at 10am.

*When God was making mothers,
He must have made a fuss,
He spent a lot of time on one,
And gave that one to us.*

*Of all the gifts in life, however great or small,
To have you as our mother, was the greatest
gift of all.*

*Because you were so special,
No words could even say,
How much we love and miss you
Today and Everyday.*

Loved and remembered by your loving sons and
daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law,
grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Bridget

**In Loving Memory of
PAULINE HOOBAN**

14th Anniversary occurs 6th August 2022.



Loving memories of you Pauline
We think of you everyday
No longer in our lives to share, but
in our hearts you are always
there.

*Always loved and remembered by
your sister Mary and family.*

May Pauline Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
MARGARET HOULIHAN
(née Lawless)

11 Mountainview, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.
Who passed away peacefully on 9th July 2022
after a short illness bravely borne.



Margaret's children, Joseph, Andrew, Paul and Lorraine, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren and extended family, would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who sympathised with us on the recent loss of Margaret.

Thank you for the Mass cards, phone calls, and messages of sympathy.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff of Portlaoise General Hospital and the Home Care team

who cared for Margaret during her illness over the past couple of years.

Thank you to Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C for celebrating her funeral Mass, Elaine Walsh for her beautiful singing at the Church, Henry Rankin Funeral Directors, and the Parish Centre for hosting the refreshments afterwards.

As it is not possible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our appreciation. Please keep Margaret in your prayers.

Margaret's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Church this Saturday 6th August at 6:30pm.



Also remembering Margaret's sister
MARY ANN LAWLESS
3rd Anniversary occurs 9th August 2022

May their Gentle Souls
Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
JOHN (SON) WALSH
Summerhill, Portlaoise.

Whose 18th Anniversary occurs 12th August 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
 Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Friday 12th August at 10am.

Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts

Sadly missed by his loving wife Rose and family.

May John Rest in Peace

You are the

Light

Of the World

Precious Memories of Our Darling
MARTIN WALSH Jnr.

118 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
30th Anniversary occurs 11th August 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be
 celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
 Parish Church, on
Sat. 13th August at 6:30pm.

A whisper on an August evening,
You heard a gentle call,
You took the hand of Jesus,
And gently left us all.

Thinking of you today and always, from your ever loving
Mammy Margaret, brothers Anthony and Joseph, sisters
Mary, Tina, Attracta, Patricia and Colette, brothers-in-law,
sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and extended family.

Also remembering Martin's Dad (Martin Snr.) at this time.

Rest in Peace Martin

In Loving Memory Of
JOHN DUFF

Died 13th August 1968
(54th Anniversary)

And his Son

PATRICK
DUFF

Died 10th August 1983
(39th Anniversary)

Kyle, Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.



Softly the leaves of memory fall, gently we gather and
treasure them all, for the ones we loved so dearly.

John and Patrick's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
 Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Wed. 10th August at 10am.

Sadly missed and always remembered by all their loving family.

Rest in Peace John and Patrick

In Loving Memory of
EUGENE O'CONNOR

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
11th Anniversary occurred 4th August 2022.



There are no goodbyes for us,
Wherever you are,
You are always in our hearts.
Always loved and remembered
by James, Zoe, Odin, Zane
and Ange xxxxx

Rest in Peace Eugene

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David **087-2369887**

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May the road rise up to meet you.

*May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of
His hand.*

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
4th August 2022

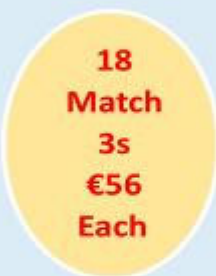


No €17,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Bernadette Bartley
Aoideann Delaney
Billy
Margaret O'Loughlin
John Beere
Rita McNamara
Zeta O'Neill
Carmel & Sean
Antoinette Dowling
Brigid Larkin
Joe Conlon
Eddie Burns
Ciss Dunne
Thelma Brown
M & M
Jake Walsh
Deirdre Haslam
Deirdre Haslam

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Online Lotto
Mary Delaney
Margaret O'Connell
John Loughlin
John Loughlin
Evelyn O'Rourke
Emlyn O'Reilly
Carmel Whelan
Barbara Dowling
Anne Brennan
Kathleen Brown
Peter Ryan
Mary J Dunne
Thelma Brown
Thelma Brown
David Tobin
Mary Haslam
Mary Haslam

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

Next Week's Jackpot is €18,000

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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



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: @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



HEATH CEMETERY MASS Monday, 15th August

Feast of the Assumption

Procession, Rosary at 7pm. Mass at 7.30pm.

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)

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