

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**

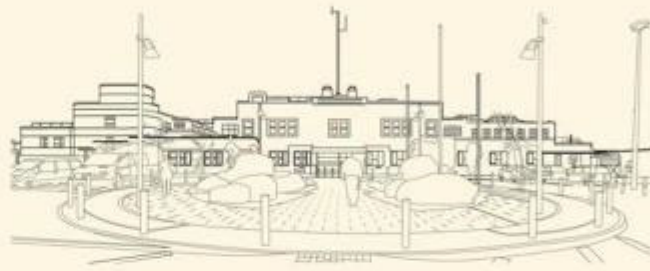
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**11th December 2022**

# Third Sunday of Advent



**What a great Christmas present for the people of Portlaoise and surrounding area. Congratulations and well done to all who worked hard over the years to save our Hospital. We owe you!**



## The future of Portlaoise Hospital is secure!

Five years to the day from the "Light for Lives" rally that took thousands of people onto the streets of Portlaoise to protest against leaked HSE plans to downgrade the Hospital, members of the Portlaoise Hospital Action Committee (PHAC) were on hand to hear Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D. confirm that those plans had been shelved. Furthermore the Minister was there to announce a €14M development of a new Respiratory Assessment Unit, an extension to the existing Paediatric Unit as well as additional healthcare accommodation over two floors, office space and a re-designed foyer/reception area.

PHAC are satisfied that five years of campaigning have paid off in securing this vital service for Portlaoise, Laois and the Hospital's wider hinterland.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the whole-hearted support from the Public from the off, allied to the exemplary work and commitment of the Staff of the Hospital – especially during the pandemic – Dr. John Connaughton and his Team on the Medical side and Michael Knowles (recently retired) on the Management side, that enabled the case for the retention of services at the hospital to be made.

The guidance, advice and support from the local GP community lead by Doctors Sean Fleming, Michelle Byrne, Gerry White, Sean Montague as well as Consultant Paediatrician Dr. Paul Gallagher and Professor John Patrick Browne from the School of Public Health at UCC enabled the Committee to produce its own Stakeholders Report on the Hospital which was authored by Richard Moore of MComm Communications. This report was central to the Committee's ability to put forward a strong case for the promotion of the Hospital and the retention of its critical services.

Our local media, print, radio and social were instrumental in our being able to make our case and keeping it to the forefront of Regional and National debate.

Finally, the honest endeavours of our Local Representatives also needs to be acknowledged. From all sides of the divide their commitment to the cause was genuine and their support unwavering. Our thanks to Deputy Brian Stanley for 'unearthing' the infamous Susan O'Reilly Report in time for us to thwart its implementation and to Minister for State Sean Fleming for securing the support of Minister Donnelly and finally delivering for the Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise the future it so richly deserves.

Portlaoise Hospital Action Committee; Tommy Timmons, Chairman, John Hanniffy, Secretary, Sam Warren, Acting PRO. Committee Members; Harry Allen, Dick Sides, Ted Squire, Eimear Holland, Dom Dunne, Melanie Drumm, Stephen McGinn, Shane Dunne, Austin Stack, Elaine Dunne & Michael Scully.

**John Hanniffy**, Secretary.

**The Parish Centre 057 8621142**

**E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)**

**Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)**

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# Come, Lord Jesus

## Lord of Joy

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December 2022 Volunteering.



In our busy lives, volunteering can feel like something that is just too difficult to fit in. But if we all made a small amount of time each month to volunteer for a charitable cause, the world would obviously be a much better place. This month Pope Francis tells us, "Being a volunteer who helps others is a choice that makes us free; it opens us to other people's needs — to the demands of justice, to the defence of the poor, to the care of creation. It means being artisans of mercy: with our hands, with our eyes, with our attentive ears, with our closeness."

This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer, "...That volunteer not-for-profit and human development organizations may find people willing to commit themselves to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths of international cooperation."

Today we welcome Bishop Denis, and wish him a Happy Christmas.

Celebrant of our 9.30am Mass at the Heath and 12.30pm in the Parish Church



### Gaudete Sunday



Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The Latin Gaudete is translated as Rejoice, the first word of the introit. The reference to joy,

hope and optimism are dominant at this point in Advent.

The lesson we can take from this is that Christians ought to be the most hopeful and cheerful of people, bringing both joy and peace into their homes and families, workplaces, and social circles. If you can't feel cheerful to order, use the opportunity to work out which parts of your life fill you with the most optimism.

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

**Monday - Thursday**

7.30am & 10am

**Friday & Saturday**

7am (Christmas Novena)

& 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.

See our Christmas Timetable on page 19

### Christmas Collection for the support of the Priests.

The Christmas Collection for the Clergy will be held at all Masses on Christmas Day.

Envelopes are in the Development Boxes or you can pick up an Envelope in Church porches.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Monday 12th December

The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near Mexico City, is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in North America. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian convert, Juan Diego, and left with him a picture of herself impressed upon his cloak. Devotion to Mary



under this title has continually increased, and today she is the Patroness of the Americas.



**We welcome into our Parish Community**

Cillian Michael O'Shea, Church Avenue

Job Cashel Morga, Clonroosk Abbey

**Who was baptised last weekend.**



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11am-4pm

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2pm-4:30pm

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.

11am-4pm

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2pm-4:30pm

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

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Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2pm-4:30pm



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## NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THIS JANUARY

STARTING WEEK COMMENCING 16TH JANUARY 2023 FOR 13 WEEKS

LEVEL 5 ACCOUNTING	MONDAY	11:00 - 15:30
LEVEL 5 DATABASES	WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY	13:30 - 15:30 11:00 - 13:00
LEVEL 5 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	11:00 - 13:00 13:30 - 15:30
LEVEL 6 APPLIED ECONOMICS	TUESDAY & FRIDAY	09:00 - 11:00 10:00 - 13:00
LEVEL 6 FINANCE	WEDNESDAY	10:00 - 15:30
LEVEL 6 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	MONDAY & TUESDAY	11:00 - 13:00 11:00 - 13:00

## HEALTH/SOCIAL CARE

STARTING 10TH JANUARY 2023 FOR 14 WEEKS

LEVEL 5 INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY STUDIES	TUESDAY	09:00 - 13:00
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## COMPUTERS

STARTING 19TH JANUARY 2023 FOR 13 WEEKS

LEVEL 4 WORD PROCESSING	THURSDAY	09:00 - 12:00
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## EVENING CLASS

STARTING 18TH JANUARY 2023 FOR 13 WEEKS

LEVEL 3 INTERNET SKILLS	WEDNESDAY	18:30 - 21:00
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## *St. Vincent de Paul*

St Vincent de Paul Portlaoise are preparing for an extremely busy period in the run up to Christmas. Our volunteers will be working with families who strive to make Christmas a happy and joyful time for their families. However, with the Energy crisis, families are finding it very difficult to cope with the rising costs of food, heat, rent, education and clothing costs. Our team has been working with families who struggle weekly and we assist, encourage and guide families in a confidential manner.

All donations are gratefully appreciated and are used in our local community in Portlaoise, we would appreciate if you would support our upcoming St. Vincent de Paul Church gate collection this weekend;

***Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of December and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2022***

We cannot express enough, how much we appreciate your continued support, without your assistance our work would be impossible. Your donation will be vital in helping us succeed, and will make an incredible difference to people's lives.

***You can also use the St. Vincent de Paul donation Box in the Parish Church.***

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**085-2148662**

### Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla **087-2068972 | [f seandoylelightengineering](https://www.facebook.com/seandoylelightengineering)**

Clothes line poles, winders, pulleys, saw horses, bicycle  
stands.

### Portlaoise Active Retirement

We meet every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm in the Parish  
Centre. New members always welcome.

**12<sup>th</sup> December** - Bowls in St. Mary's Sports Hall, 3pm.

**14<sup>th</sup> December** - Our Christmas party in the Parish  
Centre at 2pm, open to all members, cost €10 per person  
subsidised by the club, names and money to be given  
immediately. Dinner in foyer, music and entertainment up  
stairs 4pm to 6pm - enjoy.

**15<sup>th</sup> December** - Open Day in the library at 11am with  
Christmas Carols, meeting at 10.45am, come and join in  
the fun. Also on Thursday, cards in Sue Ryder at 3pm.  
For more details contact PRO Sheila at 0876204617.

Portlaoise Toastmasters met Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November,  
at Kavanaghs Bar and Venue, Main Street, Portlaoise and  
what an entertaining night it was! Our next meeting is  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in Kavanaghs Bar and  
Venue, with a Christmassy theme so you are encouraged  
to wear something festive! If you have any questions  
about Toastmasters please tel. Martina 087-2358095 or  
e-mail toastmastersportlaoise@gmail.com.

Portlaoise Church Gate Collection in aid of PATH  
Portlaoise Action to Homelessness, will be held on the  
17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> December. Your generosity would be very much  
appreciated.

St. Vincent de Paul Abbeyleix Annual Christmas  
Collection will take place this weekend 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Dec. at  
all Masses in Abbeyleix, Ballyroan, Shanahoe, Raheen,  
Knock and Ballinakill.

### Community Notices

### Results of Whist Drive held in Portlaoise Parish Centre on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December:

**Top Score:** Kitt Farrell

**1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** B.O.B.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** Betty Srahan

**1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** Austin Kavanagh

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** Mary Delaney

**1<sup>st</sup> Half:** Frances Gleeson

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** Tom Dunne

**13 Tricks;** Betty Srahan and Kitt Farrell

**Raffle:** **1<sup>st</sup>** Betty Murphy **2<sup>nd</sup>** Angela Dunne

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Ann Dunne **4<sup>th</sup>** Angela Dunne

**5<sup>th</sup>** B. Fitzpatrick **6<sup>th</sup>** A.M. Farrell

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

### Clonad Whist Results:

**Top Score:** Austin Kavanagh

**1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Breda Cooley

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** Mary Delaney

**1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** P. Stevenson

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** Tom Dunne

**Raffle Winners;** M. Delaney, T. Dunne, B. Cooley

Thanks to everyone for their support. Whist every Friday  
night at 8pm. Newcomers welcome.

Laois/Offaly Hearing Voices Group; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of  
the month, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2:30-3:30pm in Portlaoise  
Parish Centre. All are welcome, for more info. Contact;  
Louise 086-0671658, David 087-4108480 or JoeAnn  
086-8195175.

GROW weekly meetings take place on Thursdays at 7pm  
in Portlaoise Parish Centre. For details contact Michelle  
086-4183805.

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  
email accordportlaoise@gmail.com

### Religious Notices

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.



### **Carol** **Service**

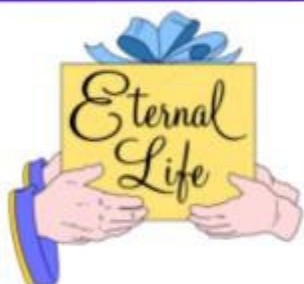


**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm**  
**In St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin**  
**All are welcome**

# CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## The Gift That Jesus Brings

In the Gospel today we learn that John, even though he was in prison, was hearing about all the wonderful things Jesus was doing. He sent a message to Jesus by some of his friends. "Ask Jesus if he is the Messiah we have been expecting, or should we continue to watch for someone else?"

When they asked Jesus that question, he answered, "Go back to John and tell him about the things you hear and see: The blind can see. The crippled can walk. People with harmful skin diseases are healed. The deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life. And the Good News is told to the poor."

If you were blind, what better gift could you receive than to be able to see? If you were crippled, what better gift could you receive than to be able to walk? If you were dead, what better gift could you receive than the gift of life? Jesus is God's gift to us. Jesus came to earth to give us life -- eternal life! What a gift!

**Dear God, thank You for Jesus! We know that every good gift we receive comes from you and the greatest gift is eternal life brought down to us through your Son. Father, we thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**



## *Third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete Sunday*

The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "[Rejoice](#)". You can see this word in Sunday's missalette or on our screen in the Parish Church at the beginning of Mass.



Rose vestments can be worn to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.





# THE GIFTS THAT JESUS BRINGS



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

When John heard in \_\_\_\_\_ what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

\_\_\_\_\_ replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive \_\_\_\_\_, the lame \_\_\_\_\_, those who have leprosy are \_\_\_\_\_, the deaf \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ are raised, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is preached to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."



cured	good	Jesus	poor	sight
dead	hear	news	prison	walk



## ALTAR SERVERS

To show our appreciation to all our Altar Servers for their hard work, we are holding a Christmas Movie and party in the Parish Centre after school on Wednesday 21st December. Children can be collected from the Parish Centre at 3pm. Please let us know if you can come.





# Time to Think!


## *The Gift of Generosity this Christmas*

Time moves by very quickly. Where has 2022 gone? I sincerely pray that the Lord's rich blessing will be given to you and your families this Christmas. Christmas, is a time when we share gifts with one another. However, wisdom reminds us that the greatest gifts we all have aren't necessarily wrapped up, or purchased but essentially are that which provides meaning and purpose in our lives. Health, family, friendship, shelter and love. These are the gifts we all cherish and value in life.

Generosity is a wonderful gift. To have a big heart is a blessing that is to be open and compassionate in love to the needs of others. Generosity is contagious and beneficial. Fact...The more we give the more we receive. Generosity is measured in our ability to engage and be present to the needs of others. It is also very important to be generous to ourselves. The more I care for myself the greater I can care for others... Christmas is a celebration of generosity. God's love is so overwhelming that he embraced our human vulnerability and became one of us. A birth that evoked generosity from shepherds to wise men. May we all be blessed with generous hearts this Christmas.

### **How much does a prayer weigh?**

Annabelle, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualising the family needs, she said: "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store. Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?" Louise replied, "Yes sir". "O.K." he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries." Louise, hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed. The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it." The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales



The spirit of  
Christmas is  
the spirit of  
generosity.

would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said: "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands." The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-euro note to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it." It was some time later that the grocer discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.

### **A Christmas Prayer**

Little baby Jesus was born upon this day,  
Lying in a manger, laid upon soft hay,  
His mother Mary cared for him,  
His dad Joseph felt proud,  
To be given such a precious boy,  
They felt safe within God's plans,  
Shepherds came to greet him,  
Wise men carried gifts,  
And gave them to the baby,  
They knew he would be king,  
So we too on Christmas day,  
Come to worship him,  
And celebrate, with love and hope,  
To play and laugh and sing,  
We love the lights upon the tree,  
The presents and the food,  
We share this special time together,  
And say our God is good,  
So good he sent us Jesus,  
To walk and shine the way,  
For us all to follow him,  
Into a Heavenly day.

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 27,400 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*



YOU'RE INVITED TO

*Love Shone Down*

*Carols from Portlaoise*

20th December  
8pm

Parish Church



*Immanuel*  
*God with us*

MATTHEW 1:23



Portlaoise  
PARISH

# Christmas Novena

Join us as we enter a period of profound preparation for Christmas at 7am from the 16th-24th December

The Masses will be celebrated by candlelight, this is traditionally called a *Rorate Mass*, and links our preparation to that of the Virgin Mother.

# Christmas Arrangements 2022



## CHRISTMAS NOVENA

FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> TO SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Mass at 7am every evening.

## CAROL SERVICE

Children's Choir Carol Service - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December Parish Church 7pm

Parish Carol Service - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December Parish Church 8pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENITENTIAL SERVICE)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Parish Church 7.30pm

## CONFESSIONS

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 1pm

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 1pm

## CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES

Portlaoise Parish Church Children's Mass

(mainly aimed at those who have not yet received 1<sup>st</sup> Communion) 4.00pm

& Children's Mass 6pm

Parish Church Our Midnight Mass 9pm

Parish Church Polish Mass 10.30pm

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES

Parish Church 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm

The Heath 9.30am

Ratheniska 10am

## MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER TO SATURDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER

Parish Church 10am

## SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY (MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD)

Parish Church 5pm (vigil), 6.30pm (vigil),

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm

The Heath 9.30am

Ratheniska 10am

## MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY to THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

Parish Church 10am

## FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY (THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)

7.30pm (vigil Thursday), 8.30am, 10am,

12.30pm & 7.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am



Masses will resume as normal from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January

All our up-to-date Mass Times can be accessed on our website.

[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)



Portlaoise  
PARISH

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



**Mick Sherlock**  
Eyne  
Portlaoise



**Michael Kerry**  
Cois Na Habhainn  
Greenmill Lane  
Portlaoise



**Kathleen T. Kavanagh**  
Hawthorn Drive  
Portlaoise



**Mary Ellen Cahill**  
née Griffin  
Kylevalley, Stradbally



**Ann Rochford**  
née Whelan  
Clonsaughey, Mountmellick and  
former teacher Scoil Chríost Rí



**Kathleen Delaney**  
née Bracken  
Ballinakill



**William (Willie) Delaney**  
Ballinakill



**Julie Ann Doyle** née Kelly  
Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix

**Liam O' Mahoney**  
Mountrath Road, Abbeyleix

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**  
*Our sympathy to their families.*

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to  
the death notice at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)

**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN and MARY ROCHE**

*Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise.*

John's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Mary's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter &  
Paul's Parish Church, on  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
**at 5pm.**



I hide my tears when I say  
your name,

But the pain in my heart is still the same,  
Though I smile and seem carefree,  
There is no one who misses you more than me.  
Your presence I miss, your memory I treasure,  
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

Sadly missed and always remembered by their sons,  
daughters, grandchildren, sons-in-laws, daughters-in-law,  
great-grandchildren and extended family.

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
DENIS BOWE**

7 Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise.

6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



*Your presence we miss,  
Your memory we treasure,  
Loving you always  
Forgetting you never.*

*Sadly missed by your wife Margaret, daughter Yvonne,  
sons Denis and David, grandchildren, sisters, brother,  
and extended family.*

*May Denis Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARGARET (MAG)  
CONROY**

Died 14/12/2021 aged 70

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



*Sadly missed, loved and remembered  
by Jimmy, Theresa, Paul & Andrew.*

*May Mag Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### In Loving Memory of **TOMMY SKELLY**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
Died 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022



The family of the late Tommy Skelly would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all who supported us through the most difficult time.

While Tommy's passing was sudden and unexpected, we felt so much love and care from family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

We would like to thank the staff of the Regional Midlands hospital Portlaoise and Dr. Gerald White for the care they gave to Tommy throughout his illness. Thank you to the ambulance personnel who attended to Tommy at home on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

A very special thank you to Fr. David Vard who presided over the requiem Mass along with Msgr. John Byrne and Fr. Cyprian Matei. Fr. Vard was especially comforting during this difficult time and Tommy would look forward to his monthly visits.

Thank you to Sarah Troy for the beautiful music that enriched the ceremony.

A sincere thank you to Matthew Keegan and David Goode, Funeral Directors, for their professionalism and sensitivity in organising Tommy's funeral and to the gravediggers who prepared his final resting place with great care.

Thank you also to family and friends who brought food to our home, sent condolences, Mass cards and messages via RIP.ie and for also granting us the privacy we needed to spend time with Tommy in the days before the funeral. This meant so much to us and we will be forever grateful for the support and kindness that you have shown us. As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

Tommy's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam*

## In Loving Memory of **ROBERT O'CONNOR**

Liogard and Forest Park, Portlaoise.  
16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm.

*Time may hide a sadness, like a smile can hide a tear,  
But memories will last forever,  
Of one we loved so dear,  
Not just a memory or part of the past, but ours to remember as long as life lasts.*

Sadly missed by Mammy, Daddy, Mark, Adrian, Liz & family, Lorraine, Bernard & family.

*May Robert Rest in Peace*

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

### In Loving Memory of **ANGELA CLEARY née Colbert**

37 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

5<sup>th</sup> Birthday away from home occurs 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022.



*To a loving Wife, cherished Mother and adored Nanny*

*We think of you in silence,  
We often speak your name,  
But all we have are memories and your picture in a frame.  
Your resting place we visit and put flowers there with care,  
But no one knows the heartache,  
As we turn and leave you there.*

Sadly missed by your loving husband Tom, daughters Stephanie, Tracey and Paula, grandchildren Craig, Ben, Ryan, Roisin and Willow and great-granddaughter Grace.

*Always in our hearts.*

*Rest in Peace Mam*

## In Loving Memory of **JOHN FITZPATRICK**

3 Ashton Manor, Portlaoise, formerly Meelick.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11:15am.



*We think of you in silence,  
We often speak your name,  
But all we have are memories and your picture in a frame.  
Your resting place we visit and put flowers there with care,  
But no one knows the heartache as we turn and leave you there.*

Sadly missed by his loving wife Josie and all the family.

*May John Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*In loving memory of*

**JOHN-JOE CONROY**

**Carrick Hill, Portlaoise.**

*Died 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021.*



John-Joe's wife and family wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who sympathised with us on our sad loss, and to all who sent Mass cards, messages of condolences, phoned and attended Mass in person or watched via the Parish WebCam. Thanks also for the floral tributes, and to those who travelled long distances for John-Joe's funeral.

Our very sincere thanks to Fr. David Vard for visiting the house and celebrating his requiem Mass and also to Bishop John Kirby for celebrating and assisting at the burial.

A special thanks to Nuala Kelly for her beautiful music and singing. We are truly grateful to Matthew Keegan and David Goode, funeral directors for their professional help and support, including JJ's reposing during Christmastide. Also to the grave diggers, Brendan and Adrian, for preparing his final resting place with such care.

We are most thankful to all John-Joe's carers, especially Imelda and nurse Tina for their great care and attention. Thanks also to the staff of the Regional Hospital Portlaoise during his illness, including the palliative care staff for their care and devotion.

We include also our thanks to Dr Booth and all the doctors and staff of the Cedar Clinic and to Marcus and staff in Breslin's Pharmacy for their help over the years. Thanks to all our extended family and John-Joe's work colleagues who always kept in touch and our neighbours who lined the pathways in Carrick Hill as a tribute to John-Joe on his final journey to the Church and burial.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

**John-Joe's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm.**

*May John-Joe Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JAMES O' REILLY**

Marian House, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.  
43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022



A sudden call from God on high,  
We had no chance to say goodbye,  
Without farewell you fell asleep,  
But memories of you, we will always keep.

*From his loving sons Martin and Jas, daughter  
Eileen, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*May James Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARY PATRICIA LALOR**

*née Breen*  
Boley, Abbeylax.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022.



3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, this Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon.

*I am that little robin that sits upon a tree,  
I sing to you each morning, but you don't know it's me,  
I am that little robin in your garden every day,  
I will never leave you,  
I will never fly away.*

*Dearly missed by her husband Donal and family xx  
Rest in Peace Paddy*

**In Loving Memory of  
DENIS (Dinny)  
FITZPATRICK**

46 Liogard, Portlaoise.  
14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022



We miss you from your  
fireside chair,  
Your loving smile and  
gentle air,  
Your vacant place, no one  
can fill,  
We miss you Daddy and  
always will.  
He was a husband so very  
rare, content in his home  
and always there,

On Earth he toiled, in Heaven he rests,  
God bless you Din, you were one of the best.

*Lovingly remembered by your wife Doreen,  
children Ann, Tina, John and Dor, sons-in-law,  
daughter-in-law and grandchildren.*

*May the Lord lay his gentle hand upon him*

**In Loving Memory of  
FERGUS BEERE**

Clonkeen.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.

A sudden call from God on high,  
We had no chance to say goodbye,  
Without farewell you fell asleep,  
But memories of you, we will always keep.

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

*Rest in Peace Fergus*

**In Loving Memory of  
Our Brother  
JOE KERRY**

Late of 48 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

*Also remembering Our Nephew  
JOHN-PAUL MITCHELL  
Whose Anniversary occurs at this time.*



We wish we could see you one more time,  
come walking through the door, but we  
know that is impossible, we will hear your  
voices no more.

We know you can feel our tears, and you don't want us to cry,  
yet our hearts are broken because we don't understand why  
you had to die.

We pray that God will give us strength and somehow get us  
through, as we struggle with the heartache, that came when  
we lost you.

*Always loved and remembered by all their loving  
family and friends.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**My Dear Sister**  
**ELIZABETH FLANAGAN**  
*(née Wright)*

*Late of Portlaoise and Stradbally.*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**



*A smile for all  
 A heart of gold  
 The very best this world  
 could hold.  
 These are the memories  
 you left behind.  
 Thinking of you  
 Elizabeth  
 today and always.  
 From your sister  
 Margaret*

*Rest in Peace Elizabeth*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**FRANK DUNNE**

*Ballyfin and formerly St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.*  
**7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
 Parish Church, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm.**



*A loving husband and father so true,  
 No one on earth we'll find like you,  
 For us you always did your best,  
 God grant your soul eternal rest.*

**Loved and remembered by your loving  
 wife Kathleen and family.**

*Rest in Peace Frank*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PAT DRENNAN**

*59 The Green, Kilminchy.*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 16<sup>th</sup> December.**



**Anniversary Mass will be  
 celebrated in Holy Cross  
 Church, Ratheniska, at 10am  
 on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December.**

*Although we seem so far apart,  
 You're always here within our  
 hearts.*

*You filled our lives with joy and  
 pleasure,*

*You were to us a precious treasure.*

*A little while shall pass and then,*

*We'll see each other once again.*

*Loved, remembered and held so dear,  
 In minds and hearts you're always here.*

**Sadly missed and forever loved by his loving wife Ann.**

*Rest in Peace Pat*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**WILLIAM FINNEGAN**

*Clonminam Rd. Portlaoise*  
**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**



**Anniversary Mass will be  
 celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
 Parish Church on Wednesday  
 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.**

*Will those who think of William  
 today, a little prayer to Jesus say.*

**Always remembered and never forgotten by  
 Rosemary and family.**

*Rest in Peace William*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PATRICK SINNOTT**

*Ardlea, Mountrath*  
**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022**



**Mass will be celebrated in Raheen Church on  
 Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, for deceased  
 members of the Sinnott and Holland family.**

*We hold you close within our hearts and  
 there you shall remain. To walk with us  
 throughout our lives until we meet again.*

**From your loving wife Anne Sinnott  
 and family.**

*Rest in Peace Patrick*

**The Final Deadline for receipt of  
 Christmas Remembrances is  
 12 noon Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Owing to print deadlines we will be unable  
 to accept notices after this deadline.**

**The first publication of 2023 will be for the  
 weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> January. All anniversaries  
 occurring between 25<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup>  
 January will need to be included in the  
 Christmas edition.**



# † KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS †

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**



## MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN

THE MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

*For the perfect tribute card for your loved one  
– our bespoke memorial cards.*

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the life of your loved one with our  
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*All our Cards are individually designed  
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Portlaoise, Co. Laois  
☎ 057 86 34050  
[www.mochuaprint.ie](http://www.mochuaprint.ie)



## HENRY RANKIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We have opened a new office and show room on  
Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.  
(opposite the E.S.B. and Condell tractors)

Contact;  
057-8620567  
PAUL; 087-2562137  
NIALL;  
086-2770095



## End of Year Rosary At The Grotto



**New Years Eve, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at 8pm**

Have a Blessed Candle lit and displayed at the grotto for the sick, deceased, your intentions or in thanks giving.

**Your Candle will be lit from 5pm on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> until after midnight. (Rosary 8pm).**

Your donation for the Candle will go to Mary's Hands in Medugorje run by Jacov the youngest visionary, and the invalids, pilgrims and poor in our own society.

Candle bookings can be made through the shop in the Parish Centre, or by contacting any of the following;

Anthony Egan	086-1993803
Paddy Connolly	087-2117174
John Egan	087-1254841
Michael Houlihan	087-9212028
Jimmy Shiels	087-6872633

*A Mass will also be offered for your intentions in Portlaoise & Medugorje.*



## Portlaoise Stone Centre

- We supply an extensive range of headstones and plaques in granite, marble and limestone, any design made to order.
- We also supply bronze eternal lamps, statues etc.
- Sandblasting cleaning carried out.
- Inscriptions added and old headstones renovated.
- Cement top and wide range of chippings available.
- We also supply and fit artificial grass.
- We supply ceramic photos - single and double.
- All grave work carried out to a high standard.

Please visit our new website [www.portlaoisestone.ie](http://www.portlaoisestone.ie)



Unit 3b Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Laois.  
Tel: (057) 8660258 | Mobile: (087) 2538930  
Email: [info@portlaoisestone.ie](mailto:info@portlaoisestone.ie)



**LOOKING FOR THE  
PERFECT GIFT  
THIS CHRISTMAS?  
PORTLAOISE PARISH  
LOTTO GIFT VOUCHERS  
NOW AVAILABLE**

**1/2 Year (26 draws) for only €50**

**Full Year (52 Draws) for only €100**

**Other Lotto voucher denominations also available**

**FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE**

**You may also join the parish lotto online at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)**



**HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR SCHOOL  
School Enrolment 2023/24**

Enrolment forms will be available from 5th to 26th January 2023  
for the above school for Junior Infants.

Enrolment forms are available from:

Holy Family Junior School  
Aughnaharna, Summerhill, Portlaoise  
(057) 86 88224 or from our website: [www.holyfamilyjs.ie](http://www.holyfamilyjs.ie)

Please return Enrolment forms to the office along with  
a copy of your Child's Birth Certificate.

**Closing date for applications is 26th January 2023**

## Safeguarding



## Children

The National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (the National Board) will be commencing their review of safeguarding practice in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. This review is to assess the safeguarding practice in the Diocese against the Catholic Church in Ireland's current standards as detailed in Safeguarding Children - Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016

If you would like to know more about safeguarding in your parish, please look at the Safeguarding section on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

If you ever wish to report a child or vulnerable adult safeguarding concern, please contact the Diocesan DLP on 085-8021633 or the statutory authorities of the Gardai, TUSLA, HSE.

## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
8<sup>th</sup> December 2022



No €13,000 Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

Rita Conroy  
Kathleen Peacock  
Mick O'Neill  
Marie Martin  
Greg & Shariff  
Tommy Byrne  
Declan Fitzpatrick

MATCH 3s €1,000

7  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€143  
Each

### PROMOTER

Rita Conroy  
Pat Bowler  
Parish Centre  
Kathleen Dunne  
Greg Keenan  
Nora Walsh  
Declan Fitzpatrick

Play PARISH

Follow Us

@PortlaoiseParish



& Like Us

portlaoiseparishlaois

www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Next Week's Jackpot is €14,000

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

# Come Lord Jesus

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10      Psalm 145:6-10  
James 5:7-10          Matthew 11:2-11

## Support for the Parish

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

### Ways to contribute to our Parish

- Envelope boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
- Direct payment by cheque or cash
- Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church
- Donation facility on our website
- Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
- Or Transfer directly to our Account

#### Portlaoise Parish Account:

IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

#### Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

(The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D)

THANK YOU

## Clergy of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.  
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.  
Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. David Vard C.C.  
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Simon Jin  
Tel: 057 8661605



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  
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 and  
the Heath Church are live streamed  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://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

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## DUNKEEN OIL

### Oil tank replacement service

Contact Marcus on 086 2904029  
or order online on [www.dunkeenoil.ie](http://www.dunkeenoil.ie)

#### Some useful tips for your oil tank:

- ▶ Be sure to **dip your oil tank** and not let it run out to avoid air locks
- ▶ Get your oil boiler **serviced yearly**
- ▶ Always check your oil tank of signs of **cracks, swelling or rust damage** on metal tanks
- ▶ Watch out for cracks on top of oil tank **to prevent water** from getting into your oil
- ▶ Look out for oil tank **foundations sinking** or any movement of the base your oil tank which may cause damage to your tank
- ▶ Cut back **ivy, trees or heavy shrubs** to prevent damage to tank and allowing you to see signs of weakness
- ▶ If your concerned about any of the above, we offer a **free tank inspection**, and where necessary we can suck out your oil and repace your tank to avoid loosing any oil or causing any oil contamination. **Don't take chances and replace damaged tanks!**
- ▶ Secure your oil tank with a **lock** (we can arrange locks for all tank lids)

**Emergency contact number 7 days a week 057 86 62777**

**Dunkeen Oil, Mountmellick Rd., Portlaoise**  
Our depot offers kerosene and tractor diesel at discounted prices