



Second Sunday of Advent




Prepare a way for the Lord

A great response from singers and musicians seen here rehearsing for our Carol Service. We look forward to it on Tuesday 20th December at 8pm in the Parish Church.



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Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Peace

Choose A New Direction

We embark on a diet and the days of lettuce and low calorie drinks loom gloomily. We embark on a fitness regime and our subconscious whispers, "Fifteen more minutes under a warm duvet versus a jog round a freezing park ... I know what I'd choose!" In today's gospel, John the Baptist preaches "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The idea of 'repentance' fills us with about as much excitement as a cold shower on a winter's morning, but it doesn't have to be like that. Diets, fitness regimes and repentance all have one thing in common we emerge as new people as a result of choosing a new direction. Repentance doesn't mean throwing ourselves round in fits of Catholic guilt, it simply means having a change of heart, and becoming new and better individuals as a result. There are areas in all our lives that can be improved or turned around. The idea of repentance is actually quite exciting. John's Advent call for a change of heart is for each and every one of us. We might think we are good enough as we are, but that's probably how the Pharisees and Sadducees in today's reading also felt. True enough they turned up for John's baptism, but had they really turned up in a spirit of repentance? John is clearly suspicious of their motivation, and challenges them to prove their commitment. Declaring our intention to change is all well and good, but our commitment must also 'bear fruit' ... show results.



At this time of year, every year, we are asked to change our lives. For the less optimistic amongst us, the idea reminds us of new year resolutions; easily made, easily broken and all a little bit pointless. John's message is a tough one. Changing our lives is far from easy. One of the problems of course is that when we try to change we usually rely solely on our own will power, which is notorious for letting us down. John the Baptist reminds us that when we are baptised in the name of Jesus we will receive the Holy Spirit, a divine power that will help us towards God when our will power fails. All we have to do is ask and keep on asking.

Change is not beyond any of us however much you think it probably is. John might have given the Pharisees and Sadducees a hard time but in truth the message is clear. "There is none so lost, they cannot be found, none so helpless that their life cannot be changed."

Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday - Wednesday

7.30am & 10am

Thursday

**(The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

(Wed Vigil) 7.30pm

(Thur) 8.30am, 10am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

Sunday as per usual.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday

After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.



An Garda Síochána Mass

Mass for deceased members and family members of both serving and retired members of An Garda Síochána will be celebrated in the Parish Church on Tuesday 6th December at 11am. **All welcome.**

The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary December 8th

It is she, Mary herself, who is the Immaculate Conception; the day does not refer to Mary's conception of Jesus but to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. From the very moment of her conception, she was filled with grace by God. The doctrine asserts that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved by God from the stain of original sin at the time of her own conception. The dogma of Mary being conceived without sin was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Kevin Barry Fitzpatrick, Millcourt

Who was baptised last weekend.



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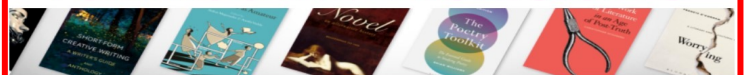
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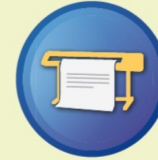
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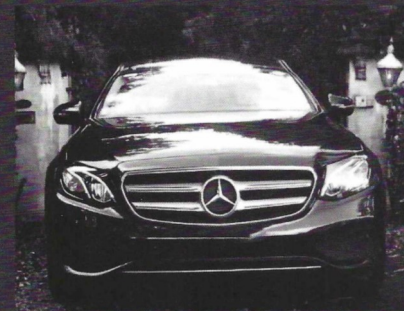
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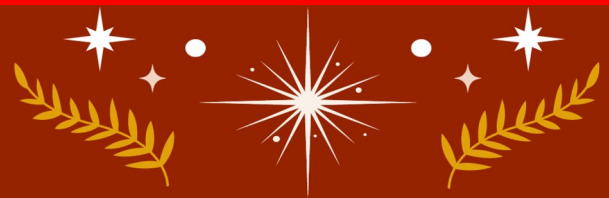
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Sunday Dec. 4th at 7pm. Marking the
official coming into effect of Irish
Independence on Dec. 6th 1922.
All are welcome. Voluntary donations
for SOSAD Laois if desired.

The Heath N. S. TRACTOR RUN

Sunday 11th December 4pm

Registration from 3pm in the
hall beside the Heath Church.
Raising funds for the school
playground. All support greatly
appreciated.

Portlaoise Active Retirement

We meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish
Centre for friendship, activities and fun. New members
always welcome.

5th Dec. - Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm. New
members welcome.

7th Dec. - Sing along with Caroline.

8th Dec. - Cards and chat in Sue Ryder at 3pm. Tuition
given, all are welcome.

9th Dec. - Coffee morning in the Parish Centre in aid of
Autism. Please support.

14th Dec. - Club Members Christmas dinner and party at
2pm in the Parish Centre.

15th Dec. - Portlaoise Library at 11am.

For more details contact PRO Sheila at 0876204617.

Christmas Fair/Sale of Work; The weekend has
arrived! Come along to Ballyfin Community Centre today,
Sunday 4th December, between 11am and 3pm for lots of
festive cheer and super bargains! All proceeds will be
donated to Mary's Meals to feed children in some of the
world's poorest communities. Your support will be very
much appreciated.

Retired HSE Staff (all grades) get together in Portlaoise
Parish Centre, Monday 12th December at 2pm. Mass and
light refreshments. Subscription €10. Names can be
given to Moire Costigan 087-6219253, Charlotte Griffin
087-2068974 or Breda Cooley 086-8812228.

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.

Rosary at the Grotto; Market Square, Portlaoise, this
Sunday 4th December at 2:30pm.

Community Notices

**Results of Whist Drive held in Portlaoise Parish
Centre on Tuesday 29th November;**

Top Score: Patricia Horan

1st Lady: Frances Gleeson

2nd Lady: B.O.B

1st Gent: Catherine Galvin

2nd Gent: Olive Delaney

1st Half: E. Ownes

2nd Half: Tom Jacob

Raffle: **1st** L. McCartney

3rd M O'Brien

5th F. Gleeson



2nd N. Delaney

4th M. Fitzpatrick

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

**NCBI celebrates opening of new Charity Store in
Portarlinton;** No.5 The Tannery, Link Road, Droughill,
Portarlinton, R32 ED26 on Thursday, December 8th. We
wish to invite members of the local community and
beyond to visit the store and sample some of our top
quality pre-loved clothing, accessories and more on offer.
Donations are accepted at our Portarlinton store, as are
expressions of interest in volunteering at the store. You
can also contact shopvolunteer@ncbi.ie.

GROW weekly meetings take place on Thursdays at 7pm
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Accord Portlaoise are open for Relationship Counselling
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For further info. please contact Mary at 086-4149034 or
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Are you Ready for Christmas?

Wow! There are only sixteen days until Christmas! Are you ready for Christmas? That is a question we hear quite often these days, isn't it? What do people mean when they ask if you are ready for Christmas? Well, they usually mean things like...

- Do you have all of your shopping done?
- Have you finished wrapping all your gifts?
- Have you put up your Christmas tree and all the decorations?
- Have you sent your Christmas cards?
- Have you finished baking all of the Christmas goodies?
- Is your house clean and ready for visitors?

Are you ready for Christmas? What things do you need to do before you will be ready? There is another question that is much more important than "Are you ready for Christmas?" That question is, "Are you ready for Christ?"



In the Gospel today, we hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out to the people, "Prepare the way for the Lord. Fill in the valleys and level off all the mountains. Make the crooked roads straight and the rough places smooth." Did John the Baptist really want the people to work on the roads? No, what John wanted was for the people to get ready for the coming of the Messiah. What he really meant was that the people needed to get their hearts right and return to God. You see, no matter how good people may think they are, there are always some crooked ways and rough places in their lives. There are things such as dishonesty, selfishness, pride, jealousy, and many more.

John wanted the people to make those crooked ways straight and rough places smooth so that Jesus could come and walk among them.

During this special season of the year, you and I need to make sure that we are ready for the coming of the Christ of Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make our crooked ways straight and smooth out the rough places so that we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let's ask him to do that right now.



In Advent the priest wears purple, the colour of royalty.

This reminds us that we are waiting to welcome Christ, the King.

Dear Father, we want to be ready. Make our crooked ways straight and our rough places smooth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.





JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS



The Second Sunday of Advent

Two purple candles are now lit for the first and second Sundays in Advent.

The **Candle of Peace** is lit this Sunday on the second Sunday of Advent.

Prayer for the Second Week of Advent

Loving God, On this Advent day we turn to you in prayer. As we wait the coming of your Son, we ask your blessing on each of us. Bring your healing upon us. And help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of peace. May your peace guard our heart, our mind and our home. We ask this through our Lord. Amen.



A Voice in the Wilderness Fill in the blanks

The _____ tells us that in the days before _____ began his ministry, a man called _____ began _____ and telling the people to _____ for the coming _____.

When told _____ people to prepare for the King, he didn't mean that they should go _____ and _____ the floor, pick up their _____, and make their _____ . He meant that they should prepare their _____.

How? By _____ of their _____ and turning toward _____.

When they did this, John would _____ them in the _____ . That is how _____ got the name, " _____ "



WORD BOX



- Bible
- John
- Jesus
- Beds
- hearts
- toys
- baptise
- sins
- God
- prepare
- John
- home
- sweep
- King
- John
- repenting
- Jordan River
- preaching
- John the Baptist



Time to Think!

CHRISTMAS 2022 - A TIME TO PRIORITISE

In the northern hemisphere, Christmas comes in an extraordinary time of the year. In our most vulnerable and darkest days, we are invited to indulge in a light that is brighter than any darkness, in a hope that is greater than any fear, in a bigger picture, that reminds us "God so loved the world, that he simply and majestically, became one of us".

The infant child, depicted in the crib, often has his arms outstretched, reaching out with empathy and deep love, into the depths of our humanity. The Christ-child's presence is warm, intimate and full of affection. Jesus is indeed the reason for the season. Yes, we all know we live in very challenging times, the list of burdens can be endless, but this time of year it's also important to prioritise and hold a sense of gratitude, for the gifts perhaps we can't purchase, but deeply value. Our family, our friendships, our health, our hopes and our joys. I think of so many this Christmas who would love to be healthy, to be reunited with a loved one whom has departed.

Often in life it's not till what we take for granted is threatened, we discover what ultimately is important. This is the gift of Christmas. Spending time with loved ones, nourishing the meaning and purpose of life, finding hope and consolation in the bright star that says even in the depth of winter, soon the green shoots of spring will once again awaken hope and new beginning.

In a Christmas message, the late Queen Elizabeth stated: At Christmas, our attention is drawn to the birth of a baby some two thousand years ago. It was the humblest of beginnings, and his parents, Joseph and Mary, did not think they were important. Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them ...

With all that's changing, we need to focus on important values that we would never want to lose. Our Christian faith calls us to be a welcoming people and to reach out to the vulnerable. This faith challenges us to be fair and just in our sharing of the world's resources. The frailty of our planet also cries out for shared action to hand on our "common home" to future generations. Each time of crisis provides an opportunity which must be seized. These challenging times, bring us to the heart of the Gospel message: what we agree to do as a community is more authentic and lasting than our individual concerns. This is a time for unity and for shared concern for one another.

We need a radical new way of relating and living that brings harmony and sustainability to all of life. We humans are part of the interconnected cosmic web of creation, and we need to live a new paradigm of



communion with all that is. Long ago, Francis of Assisi grasped this fundamental reality. He intuitively understood the importance of living not as a self-centred individual but as part of the larger whole. He championed the art of living in deep harmony and communion. Inspired by his namesake, Pope Francis says the awareness of God incarnate in the world that can "motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world" and an "ecological conversion". We must learn that 'less is more'. We must learn to envision a new economy that shifts away from consumption and exploitation to one that celebrates radical interdependence and reciprocity within diverse webs of life. Only by taking less from the earth can we move to an alternative model of living in radical harmony and deep connection with the planet.

The pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected everyone is. If we do not take care of one another, starting with the least, with those who are most impacted, including creation, we cannot heal the world. Let us follow the footsteps of Jesus as we listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

At Christmas, we pray that through Christ, we will all be united in shared goals: to look out for and care for one another more; to reach out to those who have less; to support those who grieve or carry heavy burdens, and to be eternally grateful for the many blessings we have, today and always.

May the Lord of light shine on you and on your loved ones this Christmas and in the New Year.

I pray, as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season, you will be filled with peace, joy and hope.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 27,200 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; 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

SUMMARY OF PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

The Parish and Parish Centre Accounts have been submitted to and examined by the Diocesan Accountant and audited by the Diocesan external Accountants. They form part of the Diocesan consolidated accounts which are submitted to the Charity Regulator in October each year.

RECURRING INCOME	2021	2020
	€	€
Development Fund	34,833.00	75,737.00
Basket Collection	221,356.00	152,138.00
Shrines	97,557.00	81,405.00
Parish Lotto surplus	98,711.00	92,162.00
Charity Christmas Cards	24,627.00	21,815.00
Sundry Income	1,432.00	6,331.00
Rental Income	122,605.00	102,870.00
	€ 601,121.00	€ 532,458.00
RECURRING EXPENDITURE		
Wages and salaries	44,955.00	25,870.00
K&L Retired Priest Fund	4,000.00	3,000.00
Insurance	20,704.00	20,091.00
Light and heat	56,426.00	49,035.00
Telephone, Broadband & Internet Related Expenses.	7,964.00	8,747.00
Computer Hardware/Software & Servicing Costs (incl. new parish website design in 2020)	3,692.00	6,422.00
Repairs and maintenance	30,939.00	41,376.00
Postage, Stationery and Office exes	8,338.00	5,044.00
Collection Envelopes & Missalettes	2,194.00	2,544.00
Rates- Water, LPT, Waste Collection	7,136.00	5,960.00
Altar Shrine Requisites	31,117.00	24,671.00
Pastoral Programme Expenses	3,978.00	4,582.00
Youth and Community Expenses	375.00	735.00
Diocesan Levy	29,890.00	19,925.00
Legal & Professional Fees	5,206.00	3,908.00
Accountancy Fees	294.00	293.00
Bank charges	1,899.00	2,704.00
Sundry Expenses	2,521.00	2,013.00
	€261,628.00	€226,920.00
Ordinary Income v Expenditure	€339,493.00	€305,538.00

Capital expenditure and income in 2020/2021

2020: Heath Church Renovations **€574,500**

2021: Proceeds from sale of Old Parochial House, parish houses and grounds **€450,000**

The complete accounts for the Parish & Parish Centre may be inspected at the Parish Centre by arrangement.

THANK YOU

For your support throughout the difficult year of 2021 with pandemic restrictions still very much in place. The Parish was well supported and we can only say 'thank you' for your generosity. We haven't returned to passing the basket or 'blue bag'. Their absence certainly helps our Liturgies to be more dignified and while we continue to be well supported we have no plans to reintroduce collections during Mass at this time. Many of you have found new ways to support the parish - we thank you very much for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Ways to contribute;

There are collection boxes at the entrance to our Churches - you can place your donation there. Envelope boxes are available and also casual envelopes at all the entrances. Donations may be left in to the Parish Centre anytime. If we can record your donation it allows us claim the 'tax back' from Revenue when the donations amount to more than €250 in the year.

Payment by Credit / Debit card via the donate facility on our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie

- We have introduced a 'Donation' facility on our Parish Website where in a secure way you can make a contribution, it is also possible via this method to sign up to a regular donation on a weekly/monthly or other basis. You can also make a donation to the parish via credit/debit card at the parish centre.

Standing Order forms are available at the back of the Churches and at the Parish Centre. (If you make payments in this way, please give a copy of S/O to Parish office).

Electronic transfer to our collection Bank Accounts:

Parish Account **IBAN: I E 5 3 A I B K 9 3 3 2 7 9 1 6 6 5 8 0 4 5**

BIC: AIBKIE2D

Priests Collection: **IBAN: I E 1 2 A I B K 9 3 3 2 7 9 1 6 6 5 8 2 0 1** **BIC: AIBKIE2D**

Cashless payment facility at the back of the Parish Church for use with Credit/Debit Card

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

The final cost of the renovation work to the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, came in at €574,500. The work has been much admired and the building is secured for decades to come. Work will begin on Holy Cross Church, Ratheniska, in January 2023. We look forward to a similar result. During 2021 the sale of the Old Parochial and grounds was completed, €450,000 was the sale price.

THE PARISH CENTRE

Thank God the Parish Centre is returning to something like its pre-pandemic activities. The past few years have been difficult for the Centre and it has run at a loss during this period. There is good news in that we had 'business interruption insurance' and we are in negotiation with our Insurers and are optimistic that we can recover our losses.

PARISH LOTTO

As you can see from the accounts there is an increase in the profit from the Lotto in 2021 v 2020. It is accounted for mostly by the 'luck of the draw'! Thank you to all who support it and in particular our promoters. Half yearly and yearly membership gift tokens are available from the Parish Centre and many have used these at Christmas, Birthdays and other occasions. It is also possible to play Parish Lotto on-line from our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie. Many have taken the opportunity, maybe you would like to participate? It is a fun way to support Parish Development and at the same time give yourself a chance to share in the €1,000 weekly match 3 prize fund or to scoop the attractive Jackpots on offer each week of between €10,000 and €20,000. Again many thanks to all who support it and in particular to our promoters.

My sincere thanks to all who support the Parish.

John Byrne, P.P.



Visit the Parish Centre Shop to see beautiful Eco-handbags and Christmas decorations made of wool by the Ukrainian artist-designer Oksana Rohovska. On sale - proceeds will go to support Ukraine.

Inch House
IRELAND
Stradbally, Co. Laois

FESTIVE WREATH MAKING CLASS

10th & 11th December at 13:30

Mulled Wine Reception.
A festive wreath making class in The Sir Hurt Barn with Nicola Phelan.

BOOKING DETAILS:

www.inchhouseireland.ie

+353-83-8819218



Upcoming events here!



Festive Farm House High Tea

Wellness Retreats & Meditation



Congratulations!

Egan's School of Motoring

Congratulations to Sr. Jasmine on passing her driving test



Sr. Jasmine with John Egan Instructor

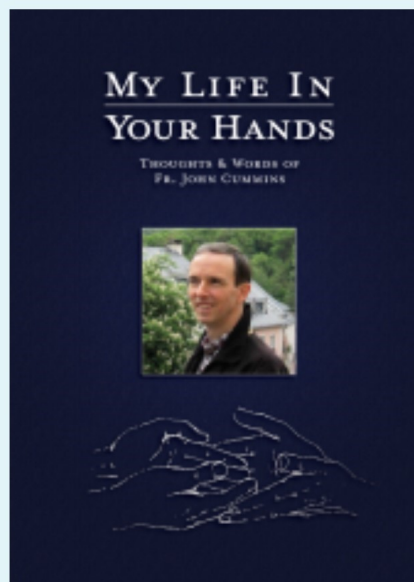
Gift Token Available For Christmas

The Ideal Christmas Gift

EGAN'S SCHOOL OF MOTORING
Portlaoise
087-1254841 057-8661440
 RSA, ADI Approved Instructor

Gift Token

Now servicing
Portlaoise – Tullamore – Birr



Give a special book this Christmas.

The family of the Newbridge born priest Fr. John Cummins (52), who died tragically in 2019, have published his thoughtful writings in a book costing only **€10**, "My Life in Your Hands".

An ideal seasonal gift for use throughout the year.

Available in Portlaoise Book Shop & Abbeyleix Parish Offices.



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 up coming St Vincent de Paul church gate collection weekend on:

Saturday 10th of December and Sunday 11th of December 2022

Our Conference 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 St Peter & Paul's Church

You can donate by post to St Vincent de Paul, Ozanam House, No 1 Dublin Road, Portlaoise

You can donate online (AIB Portlaoise) using our IBAN number: IE73AIBK93327917987070

You can tap a donation on the credit card machine in our SVP shop.

TUESDAY **06** DECEMBER

Parish Centre, Portlaoise
11am-3pm HSE
R32 FH67



Have Your Say in developing an Information Booklet for the HSE. This booklet will include topics of your choice that will assist you to live well at home. Your opinions matter; therefore, we seek your participation in this focus group

Followed by



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Pre-book your place by calling Tom in Age Friendly Laois on 086 0363426 or by emailing tcurren@laoiscoco.ie Numbers limited

COFFEE 
MORNING

Friday 9th December
In Portlaoise Parish Centre
10:30am

Organised by Portlaoise Active Retirement Group
In aid of Autism Charity. Please support.



Est. 1963 **autism.ie**
Irish Society for Autism
Registered No. 20008529 CHY5547

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



Joanna Kaletka

Fernbridge
Monasterevin



George Keyes (Snr)

St. Brigid's Place
Portlaoise



John Hogan

Blackhill, Old Town
Abbeyleix



Margaret Bergin

Mill House Boley,
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

On the sands of time, you have
left your footprints with *glory.*

Everyone will know your name
and shall recall your *story.*

*Rest in
Peace*



**In Loving Memory of
NOREEN CONROY**



11 Roselawn, Portlaoise.
11th Anniversary occurs 30th November 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 3rd December at 5pm.

Remembering also at this time
Noreen's father Michael & mother Hannah,
and also Stephen Conroy, Marian Avenue,
his sister Sheila and her husband
Noel Graham from Arles.

*From John, Kathy,
Jennifer and Jack Conroy.*

James O' Donovan, Oola, Limerick (27th November)
His wife Kathleen and Kathleen's sister
Brid Herbert and her brother Bob Nash.

From Kathy, John, James, Margaret and Willie.

Also remembering all the staff at HEART Ambulance.
Keep them all safe and protect them and our patients and
ambulances each day on their journeys to and from hospitals.
God keep us all safe from Covid.

May They Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
ELEANOR WALSH**



Capoley Lane, Portlaoise.
10th Anniversary occurred 3rd December 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 3rd December at 6.30pm.

*"The best way to feel better is to make
someone else feel good"*
- Eleanor Walsh

*Dearly missed by all her loving
family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Eleanor



**In Loving Memory of
DENIS KAVANAGH**



Pallas, Portlaoise.



*The Kavanagh Family deeply
appreciate your kindness and
support on the sad loss of Denis.*

Month's Mind Mass
will be celebrated in St. Peter &
Paul's Church, Portlaoise on Sunday
11th December at 11.15am.

May Denis Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
LILY REID**

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

12th Anniversary occurs 10th December 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Sunday 11th December at 12.30pm.**

*My Angel in the Sky
Each day I look to Heaven,
Each day I call your name,
Each day just feels so different,
It hasn't been the same.*

*Each day I always question, I often wonder why?
You had to go away from me, my Angel in the sky.
I keep you in my memories, since we've been apart,
And I'll always have a part of you, locked safely in my heart.*

*Always loved and remembered by her loving husband
and family, extended family and friends.*

May Lily Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (BILLY) FARRELL**

Hillview Drive and formerly of St. John's Sq.

9th Anniversary occurs 8th December 2022

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 4th December at 12.30pm.



*When you feel a little lonely
and all you want is me, just place
a hand upon your heart and you
know that's where I'll be.
I know how much you're hurting
but remember me and smile.
I know we are apart right now
but it's only for a while.
Take comfort that I'm happy
where the skies are always blue.
I'll be waiting at the rainbow
bridge where heaven calls for you.*

*We love and miss you always,
wife Ann, children Christine, Jessica and William,
grandson James and son-in-law James.*

May William Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Willard) DOWNEY**

8 Triogue Place, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs
4th December 2022

*Will those who think of
Willard today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.
Thinking of you always,
your good friend Andy.*



Rest in Peace Will

**In Loving Memory of
ANGELA HYLAND**

Mountmellick - Portlaoise

8th Anniversary occurred 21st November 2022



*Your needs in life were simple,
Your love for your family true,
As long as we were happy,
you were happy too.*

Loved and missed by Mary, Jimmy
and family, nieces, nephews and
her many friends.

Also remember;

Granny Hyland whose anniversary occurred
26th September.

Mary Santry whose anniversary occurred
29th November.

Nancy Campbell whose anniversary occurs
30th December.

Brian Santry whose anniversary occurred
21st May.

Eileen Callaghan whose anniversary occurred
20th November.



May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
KEVIN YOUNG**

*34 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise and formerly
Derreen, Cloneygowan, Co. Offaly.*

4th Anniversary occurs 29th November 2022.



*Four years have passed since you
left us in November,
Treasured memories still fill
our hearts, fond times
we all remember,*

*Four years away from home you
are, and missed dearly every day,
to have one last minute to sit with
you, "I love you", I would say.*

Thinking of you always, from Pamela, Roger, Rosie,
Melanie, Aaron, Chloe, Hannah, Nicole
and all your grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Kevin

In Loving Memory of

NORAH DUFF

25 Thornberry, Abbeyleix.
Died 5th December 2021.



1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix on **Sunday 4th December** at 11am.

Lovingly remembered today and forever by your loving daughters and son Mary, Elizabeth, Bridget and Michael.

Rest in Peace Norah

In Loving Memory of

PATRICIA & THOMAS TERRITT

34 Cherrygarth, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary of Patricia & 35th Anniversary of Thomas. Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Sunday 4th December** at 12.30pm.



Our thoughts are ever with you both, though you have passed away, and those who loved you dearly, are thinking of you today.

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

Loved and missed by all your family & friends.

May Patricia & Thomas Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

MARY FINNAN

Late of 6 Borris Road, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 6th December 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Tuesday 6th December at 10am.

Loving memories never die as years roll by.

In my heart a memory is kept of a friend I treasure and will never forget.

Sadly missed by Mary and friends.

Rest in Peace Mary

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL & BRIDGET RYAN

Kilmurry, Stradbally, whose 9th and 4th Anniversaries occur at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, this Sunday 4th December at 9:30am.



To your resting place we visit, place flowers there with care, But no one knows our heartache, when we turn and leave you there.

Sadly missed by their loving family, extended family and friends.

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

JOHN ARRIGAN

Newpark, Portlaoise
9th Anniversary occurred 8th December 2022



9th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Thursday 8th December, 10am.

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace John

In Loving Memory of

CARMEL CROKE

Pallas, Portlaoise
1st Anniversary occurs on 11th December 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Friday 9th December at 7.30pm

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

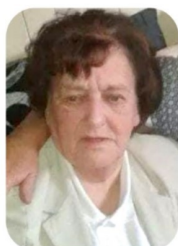
Loved and remembered always by her family

Rest in Peace Mam

In Loving Memory of

MARY KATE SHEEHAN

Late of 68 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 6th December 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on Tuesday 6th December at 10am.

Gone Are The Days We Used To Share
But In Our Hearts You Are Always There
The Gates Of Memory Will Never Close
We Miss You More Than Anybody Knows
With Tender Love And Deep Regret
We Who Loved You Will Never Forget.

Always Missed By Daughter Philomena, Grandkids, Great grandkids

Rest in Peace Mary-Kate

You are the

Light

Of the World



**In Loving Memory of
RICHARD BOOTH**

*Killeen, Mountmellick
3rd Anniversary occurs
on 11th December 2022*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in conjunction with the Memorial Mass of his sister Jacinta Moore on Monday, 5th December at 12noon in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, followed by the interment of her ashes in the adjoining cemetery.

*Always in our thoughts,
forever in our hearts.*

**In Loving Memory of
JACINTA MOORE (née Booth)**

*Mackay, Queensland, Australia
(late of Ballyduff, Stradbally)*



*Memorial Mass will take place
on Monday 5th December
at 12noon at the Church of
the Assumption, The Heath
followed by Interment of
Ashes in the adjoining
Cemetery.*

*We also remember her brother Richard Booth
whose 3rd Anniversary occurs 11th December 2022,
and whose Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
conjunction with Jacinta's Memorial Mass.*

*May Jacinta and Richard
Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of
PASCHAL FARRELL**

*56 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise
Paschal's 46th Anniversary occurred
on the 1st of December 2022.*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter's and Paul's
Church this Sunday 4th December at 12.30pm*



*They say there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason,
Will change the way we feel,
For no-one knows the heartache,
That lies beneath our smiles,
No-one knows how many times,
We have broken down and cried,
We want to tell you something
So there won't be any doubt,
You're so beautiful to think of,
But so hard to live without.*

*Sadly missed and remembered by his loving dad, brothers,
sister, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces,
grand-nephews and extended family.*

Also remembering his Mam at this time.

May They Rest in Peace

**YOUR LIGHT WILL
SHINE LIKE THE DAWN**
ISAIAH 58:8



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of
the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
Rest In Peace. Amen.*



**Visit our Christmas Shop
in the Parish Centre
A great range on display!**

**Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm**

**Saturday
3rd, 10th & 17th December
10am - 2pm**

† KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS †

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew
087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

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



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Main St., Ballyroan, Co. Laois

24 hour service and personalised attention

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Carmel 087-6144280
Des 087-2794532
moranundertakerslaois@gmail.com



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.
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been providing Funeral Services in the
Abbeyleix area.

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professional funeral service.

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www.kellysfuneralservices.ie
E-mail: info@kellysfuneralservices.ie



Main
Street
Abbeyleix

We are currently accepting
Christmas Remembrances for our
Christmas edition 24th/25th December.

**The deadline for receipt of
Christmas Remembrances will be
12 noon Friday 16th December.**

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

ITALY



ROME, ASSISI, LORETO & SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Led by Spiritual Director

10 October 2023

8 nights

€1225 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights from Dublin
- » All airport transfers and tours in Italy
- » Joe Walsh Tours Representative throughout the tour
- » 2 nights in Rome B&B
- » 3 nights in Assisi – Half Board
- » 3 nights San Giovanni Rotondo – Half Board
- » Full religious programme led by Spiritual Director

For information please contact:

JOE WALSH TOURS ph: 01 2410800

Michael McEvoy ph: 085 1490072 – EVENINGS ONLY

Joe Walsh Tours | 69 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, D01 FW11

www.joewalshstours.ie | info@joewalshstours.ie | Reservations: 01-2410800

Petriva Ltd T/A Joe Walsh Tours is bonded and licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation in Ireland - T0273 and TA0804 - in compliance with the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Package Regulation.



PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR DAVID VARD



8 JUNE 2023 | 7 NIGHTS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Mass in the Capelinha
 Rosary and Candlelit Procession
 Stations of the Cross
 Homes of the three visionaries
 International Mass

FOR DETAILS AND BOOKINGS

MAURA O'BRIEN: 0871210263 |

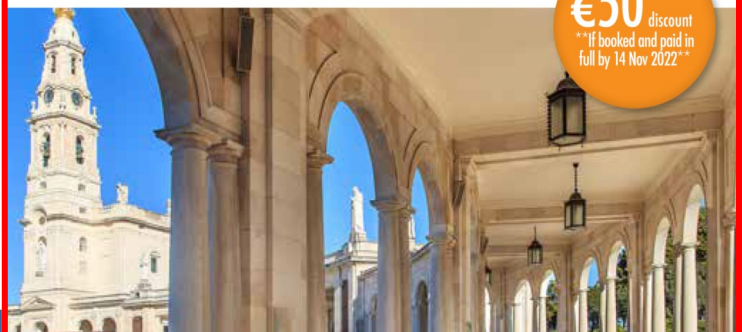
0578661601

JOHN EGAN: 0871254841

INCLUDING

- Fully escorted pilgrimage
- Accompanied by Fr Pat Hennessy
- Return flights from Dublin to Lisbon
- 7 nights at Hotel Avenida
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner each day
- Airport taxes
- 20kg check-in bag per person

€50 discount
If booked and paid in full by 14 Nov 2022



joewalshstours.ie | info@joewalshstours.ie | 01 241 0800 | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02WY88
Tours are operated by Petriva Limited i/a Joe Walsh Tours who are bonded and licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation T0273 & TA0804.



PORTLAOISE PARISH HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

07 SEP – 15 SEP 2023

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: MSGR. JOHN BYRNE

COST €2190.00 per person sharing

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: €769

Cost includes: Return flights, 8 nights accommodation half-board basis

Refundable deposit of €100.00 per person up to **7th December 2022**

For further information please contact:

John 087-1254841 | Chris 086-1987596

Kitty 087-9506634,

or Tully's Travel Ltd. 059 91 36100

First Credit Union in Portlaoise can now confirm the repayment of a 2 year and 3 year loan, with the cost and option to pay it back weekly or monthly, whichever option suits the person best.

The cost of borrowing the sum of €2,190 for the following periods from Deirdre at First Credit Union Portlaoise: €70 per months over 36 months / €16 per week over 156 weeks / €100 per months over 24 mths / €23 per week over 104 weeks.



LOURDES PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2023



€595 pps
6th - 10th July 2023

INCLUDED

- Return direct flights Dublin/Turkey (Lourdes)
- Coach to/from Portlaoise & Dublin airport
- Coach transfers to/from Lourdes airport
- 4 nights in the St. Rose Hotel with free Wi-Fi
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- Services of a Marian Pilgrimages guide throughout
- Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- All airport taxes and Local City Taxes
- Travel insurance up to 85 years (€20 extra for those over)

Single room supplement €140

Accompanied by
Spiritual Director

FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
Sean - 086 363 3785 , Frances - 085 814 2666
or Marian Pilgrimages



MARIAN PILGRIMAGES
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Portlaoise Parish



**Congratulations
to our Lotto
winners!**
Frank Cullen
&
Aoife Halion with Alice,
Mia and Sam.
**Both Winners shared the
Jackpot and received
€10,000 each.**



The Heath Choir

- a Thanksgiving Mass

(Serving the Church of the
Assumption since 1973)

Next Sunday

11th December 9.30am

This Mass of thanksgiving was planned to be celebrated around the time of the reopening of the Church

after the renovation work of 2020. But as with a lot of plans Covid intervened. However we are delighted to be able now to acknowledge and thank all who have served the Choir since 1973 - since a newly appointed Curate to Portlaoise, Fr. Tommy O'Shea, approached Ms Emma Booth (RIP) and asked about the possibility of setting up a Choir. And so it began! And this wonderful service to the Liturgy and the community has continued for 49 years.

The Mass next Sunday will remember all who have served the Choir – to those who have gone before us we ask Almighty God to grant them eternal rest and to all who have lent their voices over the years and current members, with gratitude, we ask Him to bless and reward them.



Portlaoise Prison presented the Parish with a painting of the Good Shepherd painted by the prison Art Teacher together with some students. Both the Parish and the Prison Service made a donation to P.A.T.H. in thanksgiving for the beautiful artwork.

On the photo: Eileen Dunne, Fr. David Vard, Alan Scully and Ultan Moran.

Portlaoise Parish



Results for 1st December 2022

09

13

23

27

No €12,000 Jackpot winner

WINNERS

Ross Moylan
David Birchall
Alanna McDermott
Tom Hilliard
Liz Hilliard
Grace Brennan
Donal Brennan
Greg & Ola
Richie Buckley
Kevin Carroll
Mary Reddy
EBCJ & Lucy
Tadhg Burke
J. Goshling
O. Nolan

MATCH 3s €1,000



15 Match

3s

win

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

PROMOTER

Ross Moylan
On-Line
On-Line
John O'Reilly
Liz Hilliard
Peter Ryan
Peter Ryan
Greg Keenan
Paul Dooley
Paul Dooley
Mary Doran
Lucy Conroy
M.T. Burke
Rita Watkins
M. Carroll

Next Week's Jackpot is €13,000

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish

& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

Clergy of the Parish



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



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



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



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and 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

(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

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13 17
Roman 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

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

25 YEARS KEEPING YOU WARM



DUNKEEN OIL

Oil tank replacement service

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or order online on 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