

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**

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up**

8th January 2023



The Baptism of the Lord

Ring in the New Year 2023 at St. Peter & Paul's. Candles lighting in memory of loved ones and the Papal Flag flying at half mast in honour of Pope Emeritus Benedict. The Light of heaven to all our departed and a bright and blessed New Year to all.

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI
1927 - 2022



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

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

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Happy New Year

Happy New Year! It's something we've heard a lot of over the last week, but what are we really expecting of the new year? Do we face the new year

with optimism and eagerness, or do we face the new year in a spirit of "same old same old." Not all of us are starting 2023 happily. Many of us face the new year with ongoing problems. For many, illness, hardship, or difficult relationships aren't things that will simply go away. Some of us will be struggling to find work; others may be stuck in jobs they hate. Increasing numbers are trapped in inadequate housing or afflicted by addiction, depression or loneliness. Do we face the new year eager and optimistic, or tired and disillusioned?

In today's account of Jesus' baptism, we are told how the heavens opened, and how the Spirit of God descended like a dove. This marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Filled with the Spirit of God, Jesus had the power to work miracles, to cure the sick and raise the dead. The Spirit of God enabled Jesus to face any challenge.

In baptism we are filled with the same Spirit that filled Jesus. The very same Spirit! Our baptism might seem no more than a photograph in a dusty photo album, but could our lives be very different if we were to call upon the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit isn't going to make our problems go away, nor are we promised an easy life. What we are promised is the strength and direction to make good decisions. Through our baptism, and because of Jesus' baptism, we can resolve to confront our problems head on, and make something meaningful happen in the year ahead.

'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'
Today's Gospel (Mt 3:17)

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 5pm & 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 5pm Masses.



**Blessing of Babies
will take place in
the Parish Church
Today (Sunday) at
2pm**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for January 2023

For Educators



The best schools are not necessarily those that come out at the top of the league tables. The best students are not necessarily those who come out with the best grades and go on to the best universities. The best schools are schools that develop the 'whole child'. The best students are those who go out into the world caring not just about their own success but the world around them. This month Pope Francis asks us to join in his prayer that ".....educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all."



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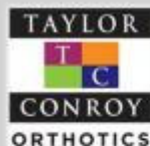
Mon: 9:30am - 6pm Thurs: 8:30am - 7:00pm

Tues: 8:30am - 5:30pm Fri: 9:30am - 5:30pm

Wed: 9:30am - 5:30pm

Thanks as always for your support

Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic



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The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre is operating as normal – we are currently following National Cancer Control Programme guidelines. Facemasks are required to be worn for all attendees. The welfare & care of those attending & working in the centre as always is our priority.



Mondays

WALKING GROUP

Our walking group brings participants through a walking programme gradually increasing fitness over time.

The walking group helps people diagnosed with cancer take positive steps towards better health. Exercise has been shown to help with fatigue for cancer survivors.

Mondays at 2pm
Starting 13th February

THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME

This is a self-management programme for cancer survivors with the aim of improving their quality of life to better manage daily health. (Developed by Stanford University)

Monday at 10am
Booking Essential
February 2023

THRIVE & SURVIVE MEDITATION

12.30pm - 1.30pm
Booking Essential
February 2023

ENTITLEMENTS

A Citizens Information Adviser will give you advice about the financial help you may be entitled to and will help you to navigate the process. e.g., medical card application etc

CANCER SUPPORT NURSE

Our cancer care nurse will provide you with information to help you with the emotional and psychological impact of your cancer diagnosis.

Tuesdays

MEN'S GROUP

1st Tuesday of each month
from 10am-11am
Next Group 7th Feb.

MINDFULNESS FOR MEN

11am-12noon
7th February

PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY

14th February
Spaces Available.
Booking Essential

MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

11am-12noon
6 Week Course
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7th February

PILATES

12.45pm-1.30pm
Places Limited
6 Week Course
7th February

Wednesdays

Next

GARMENT FITTING

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ART

From 2-4pm
17th February

CHAIR YOGA

10am-11am Booking
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18th January

Thursdays

MINDFULNESS FOR MENOPAUSE

10am-11.15am
Booking Essential
12th January

CLIMB PROGRAMME

Helping Children Understand Cancer. This programme is fun and creative, using drama, arts and play and aims to help children cope with a cancer diagnosis in the family
February 2023

WORK & CANCER PROGRAMME

This is a 6-week programme which will equip you with strategies and skills to help manage everyday symptoms which can impact on work. This programme was developed by TCD and is supported by TCD & NCCP.

Booking Essential
Starting February 2023

COUNSELLING

By appointment only

NEW – AQUA AEROBICS

EVERY THURSDAY from 1.45-2.30pm
STARTING THURSDAY 9th JANUARY
IN PORTLAOISE LEISURE CENTRE



This class is ideal for all cancer patients especially patients who suffer with lymphoedema. Aqua aerobics or exercising in water can really help improve lymphoedema and quality of life, as well as helping you keep fit, healthy and happy.
Please give the centre a call if you would like to attend this class on 057 8681492
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& Wednesdays – 9am-2pm

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Catherine
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BUSINESS

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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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The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church,
Friday 13th January 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.

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The Heath, Portlaoise, Co.Laois
Junior Infant Enrolment 2023-'24 school year

The school is accepting applications for Junior Infant enrolment for the school year 2023-2024 from 13th January 2023. Application forms are available from the school website www.heathns.ie or the school office. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 3rd February 2023. For any further information you may require please contact the school Principal Mr. David O'Brien on 057-8646658 or office@theheathns.com



Applications for Admission 2023-2024 - Scoil Fionntain Naofa, Shanahoe, Abbeylax:

The school is accepting applications for admission to Junior Infants and to our Sonas ASD Class for the school year 2023-2024 from Thursday, 5th January 2023 to Thursday, 26th January 2023.

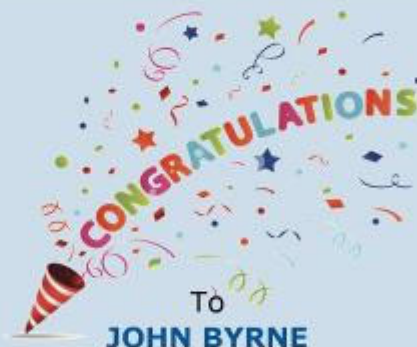
All Information including our 'Annual Admissions Notice' & 'Application for Admission Forms' can be found on the 'Parents' tab of the school website; www.shanahoens.weebly.com

Alternatively, 'Application for Admission Forms' can be sought by e-mailing the school office at shanahoens@gmail.com or by phoning 057-8739715. Follow us on Facebook at 'Shanahoe National School', Instagram 'shanahoe_ns', or Twitter @shanahoeNs

School Motto: 'Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí'

Scoil Mhuire, Ballyroan Road, Abbeylax is accepting Enrolment Applications for Junior Infant classes from Monday 9th January to Friday 27th January 2023. Parents who wish to enrol their children for Junior Infants beginning Sept. 2023 are invited to submit applications for enrolment during this period. We recommend pupils are at least 4.5 years old by September 2023. Enrolment Forms are available from the school secretary 057-8731051 or e-mail scoilmhuiresabbeylax@gmail.com, from Merry Mornings Preschool, Gort na nÓir, Jelly Tots Playschool, CYMS Hall and The Childrens' House, The Fairways. All completed enrolment forms must be returned to the school by Friday 27th January 2023. Those accepted for enrolment will be notified by post by Friday February 3rd 2023.

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Winner of €10,000 Lotto Jackpot,
Thursday 22nd December

Photo;

Fr. David presenting Rose Walsh, promoter with a cheque for €1,000 and John Byrne's niece and nephew Lily and Jack Walsh, with the winning cheque for €10,000.

You too could be as lucky as John - play lotto online at www.portlaoiseparish.ie or purchase a lotto membership in the Parish Centre. If you aren't in, you can't win!!

The lotto draw takes place in the foyer of the Parish Centre every Thursday evening after 5pm and is live streamed on the Portlaoise Parish facebook page;

**DON'T
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CHANCE
TO WIN!**



New Beginnings

January is an exciting time. It is the beginning of a brand new year. Some people like to make New Year's resolutions or promises to themselves about what they plan to accomplish in the new year. The number one resolution that people make is, "I am going to lose weight." I don't think too many people succeed, since it seems to be the number one resolution year after year. I know that it usually makes my top ten list of things I would like to accomplish in the new year.



Even if you don't make any New Year's resolutions, this is an exciting time. It is a time that we can forget our past mistakes and look forward to new opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is a time of new beginnings.

Jesus experienced times of new beginnings in his life too. One of those times was when he was baptised. There were a couple of very important things that happened when Jesus was baptised. First of all, the Bible tells us that the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and landed upon him. The second thing was that God spoke and said, "You are my Son. I love you and I am well-pleased with you."

This event marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry here on earth. Up until that time, he had not performed any miracles, but with God's stamp of approval and with the spirit of God upon him, Jesus began to perform great miracles. From this new beginning, many people began to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and they began to follow him.

Our own baptism represents a new beginning for us as well. When we are baptised, it shows the world that just as Jesus rose from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we also live a new life in him. (Romans 6:4) God may not always be well-pleased with us, but I think that He looks down with an approving smile when he sees us trying to walk with Jesus.

New beginnings — God gives us opportunities for new beginnings. Let us make the most of them as we live a new life in Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit.

OUR PRAYER

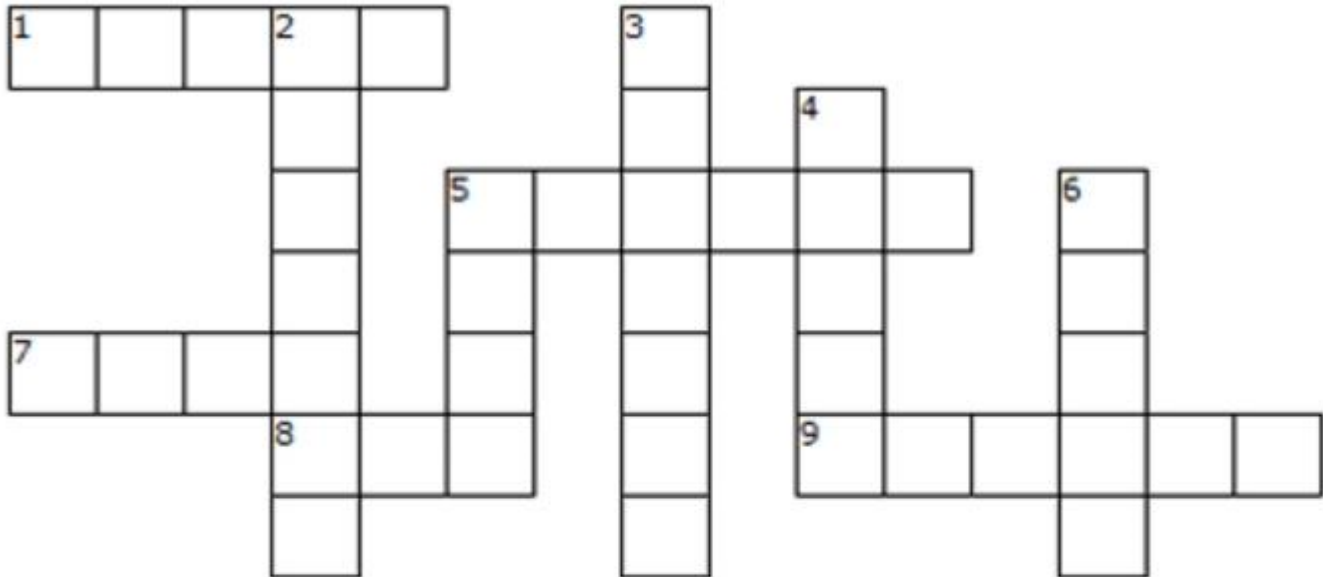


Dear Father, thank you for new beginnings. Help us to make the most of them - not through our own strength - but through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. Amen.

The Baptism of Jesus

'As soon as Jesus was baptised... The heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him'.

Matthew 3:16-17



ACROSS

1. What was heard when Jesus was baptised.
5. The river where Jesus was baptised
7. The Spirit cam down from heaven like a _____.
8. To break one of God's commandments.
9. To turn away from sin.

DOWN

2. To admit that you have done wrong.
3. To pardon for sins.
4. The liquid used to baptise someone.
5. Name of the man who baptised Jesus.
6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

**FORGIVE
CONFESS**

**JORDAN
WATER**

**JOHN
SIN**

**DOVE
VOICE**

**REPENT
HONEY**

Thank You!

Ratheniska children's choir at their Rehearsal and on Christmas Day. A big thanks to Anna and Caroline who put in all hard work to make this choir so successful. Well done!





Time to Think!

Pope Benedict XVI.....A Humble Servant of the Lord

In the annals of papal history, Joseph Ratzinger, who has died aged 95, will be remembered principally as the first pope in 600 years to retire, rather than to die in office. Any other achievements of his eight-year pontificate as Benedict XVI – and there were a few worthy of enduring note – will ultimately be overshadowed, first by the manner of his going, and second because his papacy came between that of two controversial and larger-than-life figures, his long-time boss, Karol Wojtyła, John Paul II, and Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Francis, the self-proclaimed pope “from the ends of the Earth”.

In doctrinal terms, Benedict spent his time in charge tweaking the legacy of the 27 years of the Polish pontiff. The conservative settlement that John Paul had imposed, with Cardinal Ratzinger’s able and unswerving assistance, on the great theological battles that had followed the reforming second Vatican council of the 1960s remained fundamentally undisturbed during Benedict’s reign. The victories already achieved in the last decades of the 20th century over more liberal Catholic voices over questions of sexual morality, clerical celibacy, the place of women and religious freedom were, as far as Benedict was concerned, secure. His pontificate, then, is best seen as an extended postscript to the one that had gone before.

But that is not the whole picture. There are three principal ways in which it differed. First, Benedict was not by inclination so dominant or overbearing a character as John Paul. He was able to break new ground in the modern history of the papacy by occasionally uttering the word “sorry”: sorry for allowing a Holocaust-denier, the British-born priest Richard Williamson, back into the fold in 2009, an error made – as Benedict humbly admitted in a letter to the world’s Catholic bishops – because he and those around him in the Vatican had not been sufficiently up to speed with modern means of communication to check the internet and see Williamson’s offending remarks. Sorry, too, for any offence caused by a lecture at Regensburg University in Germany in which Benedict quoted disparaging remarks about the prophet Muhammad; and sorry, repeatedly, to the world and to victims for the crimes of paedophile priests.

This final apology was part of the second way in which Benedict’s papacy deserves to be seen as distinctive. He was the first pope to look the abuse scandal in the eye and attempt to tackle it. He may have made only a start, but his predecessor had simply swept it under the carpet and even given sanctuary to known abusers. Benedict withdrew that protection and promised a thorough review that would stop such a betrayal happening again. Delivery of the promise, though, was patchy.

His third claim to be his own man came when he surprised even those close to him in February 2013 by resigning, on the grounds that he was simply too old and too ill to carry the burdens of leading a global church of 1.2 billion. Hardly a revolutionary thing for an 85-year-old man to say, you might think, but it has almost always been the tradition of popes to die in office, emphasising that theirs was a



God-given job and therefore one that only God could release them from by calling them back to him.

Benedict’s abrupt departure created short-medium-and long-term problems for the Catholic church. The cardinal electors negotiated the first of these challenges better than expected. Their choice of Cardinal Bergoglio, from Argentina, was made quickly and decisively, and sent out a powerful signal to the world that Catholicism had recognised the need for a new approach.

The medium-term problem was the fact that there were suddenly not one but two popes. Part of the mystique of the office is that it elevates just one man above every other member of the church, and indeed the main argument long used against papal resignations, even when the incumbent was so physically or mentally frail that they could not function as a leader, was that this unique source of authority would be divided in an organisation that runs on hierarchical principles. If you are going to have an absolute monarch, you cannot have two pretenders.

On this occasion there was just one uncomfortable incident, in January 2020, when, in a foreword to a book by a deeply traditionalist colleague, Benedict warned Francis not to relax rules on priestly celibacy. When it made headlines, Benedict immediately asked that his name be removed from the text. Some believed the offending passage had been added by those who looked after him.

Whether or not you regard the prospect of subsequent popes resigning when they reach a certain age as a long-term problem depends on your view of the papal office. Resignations sit uneasily with the traditional belief that the pope is a quasi-divine figure, with a hotline to heaven. For all his theological and doctrinal conservatism, and his delight in the trappings of his ancient office, Benedict clearly did not.

Born in the village of Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, Joseph was the third child of three and second son of a former hotel cook, Maria (nee Peintner) and a police commissioner, also Joseph, both devout Catholics. His childhood was unusual because of the extraordinary piety of the family, which separated him from his contemporaries. There was never, it seems, a time when young Joseph did not want to be a priest.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 28,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

His father's opposition to the Nazis is reported to have curtailed his police career. A lasting memory for Joseph was, as a boy, seeing Nazi supporters beat up his local parish priest in Traunstein, near the Austrian border. On another occasion, in 1941, a younger cousin who had Down's syndrome was taken away by Nazi officials under their eugenics programme to perish with many others.

Membership of the Hitler Youth was compulsory for the two Ratzinger boys. Like other 16-year-olds, Joseph was called up in 1943, serving first with an anti-aircraft battery in Munich and then with an infantry unit on the Hungarian border, before finding himself for six weeks in an American prisoner of war camp. The end of the war meant he could resume his studies for the priesthood and he was ordained in 1951, on the same day as his elder brother, Georg.

It was often easier for otherwise loyal Catholics concerned by the draconian actions of the Vatican in regard to popular, liberal theologians to blame Ratzinger rather than John Paul II. The pope managed to evade any sort of categorisation within his lifetime, not least by dint of his personal charisma, while, as his right-hand man, the apparently dour, inflexible Ratzinger was a more convenient target. But, as pope, Benedict largely avoided such targeting of individuals. The attack on dissidents was, it seems, his master's bidding.

As John Paul's health failed, Ratzinger stepped into his shoes ever more to become prominent as the spokesperson for Catholic orthodoxy, fearless in attacking those aspects of secular culture that he saw as wrong-headed. He talked often of his desire to return to the Bavarian village of Pentling, near Regensburg, to take up again his theological writings. If he could have chosen a way to spend his time, it would have been reading, researching and writing about Catholicism. To that end, he tried three times to retire after suffering a stroke and then heart complications – which eventually required him to have a pacemaker fitted – but he was persuaded by a now physically needy John Paul to stay at his side.

When the Polish pontiff died in April 2005 after a prolonged and very public battle with Parkinson's disease, it fell to Ratzinger, as dean of the College of Cardinals, to lead the tributes, organise the funeral and open the conclave to choose a new pope. He performed all three duties impeccably, so that to his fellow cardinals he suddenly appeared the obvious candidate, though he had not been regarded as the frontrunner beforehand.

No cardinal will ever admit to wanting to be pope, but, had he ever harboured hopes, Ratzinger must surely have concluded, with his 78th birthday almost upon him, that his moment had passed. As well as his age and indifferent health, there was a chorus of demands from many influential voices in the worldwide Catholic church for a radical change of direction. And yet, against the predictions of most commentators, it was Benedict who emerged from the Sistine Chapel after just two days of voting as the oldest incoming pope since Clement XII in 1730 and only the second non-Italian in almost half a millennium.

Describing himself as a 'humble worker in the Lord's Vineyard', may this remarkable friend of the Lord Rest in Peace...



Happy New Year 2023

I pray that 2023, will be a blessed and healthy one for us all. Every New Year brings with its expectation, uncertainty, hope and a degree of anxiety. 2023, invites us to begin again. The greatest gifts are really only appreciated when they are made vulnerable, particularly our health and well-being. This time when we make resolution and prioritise, a fitting New Year's resolution, is to safeguard our physical mental and spiritual health. Making time for ourselves, being good to ourselves, fuels our ability to reciprocate and share with generosity our gifts and talents. Already the green shoots in our gardens and pathways celebrate that sense of new beginning. Christmas isn't just something that happened, but its effects linger throughout the year. I was greatly taken by the huge amount of people who made priority to coming to visit Church this Christmas. I pray that the Lord will truly bless you with all what's good throughout 2023.

New Year is often seen as an opportunity to improve ourselves or what we have. But while this can be a healthy practice, it is also beneficial to reflect on the blessings that we already have. On New Year's Eve, people around the world watched their clocks strike midnight and brought in the New Year with fireworks, celebrations, and time with loved ones. It seems like, at least for a little while, we were all united in our gratitude for another year of life. For many, a new year brings hope because it represents a chance for a new start. All of us need a new beginning, a fresh start. The good news is that Jesus is with us along the way and turning our eyes to Jesus renews us every time. As we begin a new year, we often desire change like weight loss or having a better work/life balance. These things are good; however, the change Jesus brings, impacts this life and the life to come.

He can change us on the inside in such a way, that everything becomes new. He brings a new beginning to how we see God and ourselves. He brings a new beginning to our purpose. He may not change our problems, but he can help us overcome our troubles. He may not change the way you look, but he will make you confident in the skin you are in. He may not bring back the person you lost, but he will comfort you so you can comfort others. He is the Light and he knows how to chase away the darkness. We have a new beginning in Jesus. We do not have to wait another year to get our fresh start. Our Jesus knows how to make everything new.

This New Year 2023, let us open our hearts and ears and receive what God has already given us. Let us experience his grace and love and deep peace. Happy New Year.

New Year's Prayer

As we begin a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, colour or creed. Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none. May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful 2023.



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JANUARY 2023
AT 2PM**

It will be three years since our last Blessing of Babies Ceremony and we are delighted to invite anyone who has been baptised in those three years to this year's ceremony.

 **Portlaoise
PARISH**

Christmas in our Parish



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



Louisa Powders
née Dunne
Grattan Street, Portlaoise



Imelda Madigan
née Horan
54 Ardan Glas, Portlaoise



Kathleen Doyle
Cois Na hAbhainn, Portlaoise



Patrick (Paddy) Johnson
Tunduff, Abbeyleix



Paul Malone
Shanahoe and Dublin

*Even though I walk through the darkest
valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff - they comfort me.*

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

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

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

*In Loving Memory of a Precious
Son and Brother*

DEAN BERGIN

5th Birthday away from home.



Today is your birthday in Heaven
above, our blessings we send on the
wings of a dove, not just for today,
but everyday here'of, we think of you
always with all our love.

Always missed, love forever,
your Mother Mossie, sisters
Martina, Lisa, Sandra, nieces
and nephews xxxxxx



May Dean Rest In Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JANE BYRNE** née Dempsey

Old Knockmay Rd. Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 8th January 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 8th January at 12.30pm.

*Silent thoughts of times together,
Hold memories that will last forever.*

*Sadly missed by her husband Joseph,
sons Joe, John and James and
daughters-in-law Aisling and Sinead.*

Granny

*Remembering you is easy, we do it every day;
Missing you is a sorrow that never goes away.*

*Loved & missed every day,
Robyn, Oran, Caoimhe, Oisín, Aoibheann.*

Rest in Peace Jane

**In Loving Memory of
JANE BYRNE** née Dempsey

Old Knockmay Rd. Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 8th January 2023.



Mam/Granny

*A loving Mother and Granny so
true, no one on earth we will find
like you,*

*For us you always did your best,
God grant your soul eternal rest.*

*Sadly missed by John, Sinead,
Caoimhe, Oisín and Aoibheann.*

Rest in Peace Jane

**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN BRENNAN**

54 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs 14th January 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 14th January at 6.30pm.
*Along the road of suffering, you found a
little lane, that took you up to Heaven
and ended all your pain,
You may be out of sight, we may be worlds
apart, but you are always in our prayers
and forever in our hearts.*

Sadly missed by your loving wife Ann, Helen, Mark and Eve.

Rest in Peace Martin

**In Loving Memory of
AGNES CARROLL
ROONEY**

43 Liogard, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs at this time.



*My heart still aches in sadness,
My silent tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you,
no one will ever know.
A silent thought, a secret tear,
Keeps your memory ever near,
Death leaves a heartache no one
can heal, love leaves a memory
no one can steal.*

*Though absent you are very near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by all her
loving family.*

May Agnes Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN BRENNAN**

54 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs 14th January 2023.



*Remember Martin with a smile
today,
For he would not want our tears,
Reflect instead on memories of all
his happy years.*

Sadly missed by your loving mother Nellie, brothers and sisters.

Rest in Peace Martin

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Pat) BOWLER**

6 The Cottage, New Road, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 9th January 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this **Sunday 8th January at 10am.**

*I thought of you today,
But that is nothing new,
I thought about you yesterday and
days before that too.*

*I think of you in silence, I often speak your name,
All I have are memories, and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake from which I'll never part,
God has you in His arms, I have you in my heart.*

*Missed by his wife Maureen, sons, daughters-in-law,
grandchildren and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Patrick

**In Loving Memory of
MARY TYNAN**

Rathevan, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 9th January 2023



*There is no night without a
dawning, no winter without
a spring,
And beyond death's dark
horizon, our hearts once
more will sing.*

*For those who leave us for a
while, have only gone away,
Out of a restless careworn world, into a
brighter day.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 8th January at 12.30pm.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by
her husband Luke and family.*

Rest in Peace Mary

**In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH O' SHEA**

20 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 10th January 2023.



*Loved and missed dearly by
Mam, Caroline,
John, Paul, Patrick
and William.*

Rest in Peace Joseph

In Loving Memory of TOM LOOBY

84 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 7th January 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 8th January at 12:30pm.

*May the winds of Heaven blow softly,
And whisper in your ear,
How much we love and miss you,
And wish that you were here.*

Sadly missed by his loving family.

Rest in Peace Dad

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of MICHAEL KERRY

7 Cois Na Habhainn, Greenmill Lane, Portlaoise.
Months Mind occurs at this time.



The family of the late Michael Kerry would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised with them, sent Mass Cards and flowers, telephoned and uploaded messages online and to those who attended Tom's Requiem Mass either in person or via the Parish Webcam.

Our thanks to the Priests of the Parish for their support, and also to our wonderful friends and neighbours, your kindness will not be forgotten. A special thank you to Dr. White and also to the staff of Tallaght hospital for caring for Michael. Sincere thanks to Rankin's Funeral Directors for the professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out Michael's funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing his final resting place with such care. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

**Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 8th January at 12:30pm.**

Rest in Peace Michael

You are the
Light
of the World



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

*In Loving Memory of
A Cherished Husband, Father and Grandfather
WILLIAM (Willie) O' REILLY
28 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
5th Birthday away from home (76 years)*



We would give the world if we could say
Happy Birthday in the same old way,
In our hearts you live forever because we
thought the world of you,
The shock of your passing still lingers,
The ache in our hearts still remains,
But the wonderful memories you left us,
Stay with us each passing day,
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day god called you home,
Time passes, memories stay, never
forgotten especially on your birthday.



Happy Birthday
Sadly missed and always remembered
*Your wife Anne, sons and daughters,
sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and all your
grandchildren xxx*

In Loving Memory of **LILY BYRNE**

Late of Capoley, Portlaoise. (Died 7th January 1981)



Each time we look at your picture
You seem to smile and say;
"Don't be sad, but courage take and love
each other for my sake"

Sadly missed by your son Martin,
daughter-in-law Jacqueline, grandchildren
Lorraine, Michelle & Sarah and her
great-grandchildren Danny Joe & Maeve.

May Lily Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **JANE SHIELS**

Formerly Dr. Murphy's Place, Portlaoise.
23rd Anniversary occurred 5th January 2023.



Though her smile has gone forever
and her voice we cannot hear,
Her smile brought warmth like
sunshine from above,
Not a minute goes by when we
are not thinking of her,
Even though we are far part,
Her love lies in our hearts.

Loved and remembered by your sons, daughters,
son-in-law, grand-children and great grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Jane

In Loving Memory of **JAMES DEMPSEY**

8 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. Died 1st January 1997.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 7th January at 6:30pm.

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

Also remembering our mother Sadie at this time.

From all your loving family.

Rest in Peace James

In Loving Memory of **JOHN DOLLARD**

31 St. John's Sq., Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 16th January 2023.



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.

Always in our hearts, sadly missed by your loving
wife Brigid, daughters Violet and Sandra, sons
John and Gerard, son-in-law, daughters-in-law,
grandchildren and great-grandson.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 15th January at 11:15am.

Rest in Peace John

In Loving Memory of **PAT MOORE**

Kilcullen and formerly Morette, Emo.
Months Mind occurred 3rd January 2023



Always a smile instead of a frown,
Always a hand when one is down,
Always true, thoughtful and kind,
Wonderful memories you left behind.

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

Rest in Peace Pat

In Loving Memory of **PETER FARRELLY**

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 10th January 2023.



It's lonely here without you,
I miss you more each day,
Life is not the same for me,
Since you were called away.

Sadly missed by your loving wife
Delia.

Rest in Peace Peter

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of **MICHAEL (Gilpin) CONROY**

Greenmill Lane, Portlaoise.

Birthday occurs 6th January 2023



In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true,
There is not a day dear Dad,
That we do not think of you.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered
by Jimmy, Teresa, Paul and Andrew.

Rest in Peace Michael

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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
5th January 2023



No €11,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Cathriona McLoughlin
Bernie Maher
Kathleen Fogarty
N & D Arrigan
Michael Kerry
Jason & Noelle Dowling
Richie Whelan
Josephine McCarthy
Caroline Laffan
Emma Ging
Anne Fagan
Patty Critchley
Susan Gowing
Leo Bergin
Mark Bartley

MATCH 3s €1,000



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Peggy Drennan
Online Lotto
Nuala Arrigan
Lucy Kelly
Tommy Timmons
Lotto Gift
Online Gift
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Philip Fagan
Peter Ryan
Richard Phelan
Veronica Doheny
Mary Bartley

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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

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Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Kathleen Sherry safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
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E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
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Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
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The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 | Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38 | Matthew 3:13-17

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

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Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church
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