

Prayer for Holy Week

Heavenly Father, today Palm Sunday, as Holy Week begins, please guide me on my faith journey to deeply reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ. Touch my heart and mind so that I may more readily share His message of love, mercy and forgiveness with anyone in need and offer them hope and comfort.

Full Holy Week timetable on the back cover.

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

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



Easter Collection For the support of our Priests

Easter Collection for the priests of the parish takes place over the Easter period. Envelopes at the Church porches for those not using an Envelope Box. You may also donate to this collection via our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie or directly to our Clergy Account, details inside the back cover.

Thank you for your continued support.



Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come
in your abundant mercy!

Trócaire Boxes

Please bring Trócaire boxes to Mass on Holy Thursday. Place them in the basket provided in the Church.

Please do not leave Trócaire Boxes in the Church while unattended. You may return it to the Parish Centre during office hours, Monday to Friday, 9am—5pm. You may also donate to Trócaire online via their website, www.trocaire.org/donations/now/



Traditional Eastern European Blessing of Food

by Fr. Piotr Jakubiak on Holy Saturday at 12noon in the Parish Church. All are welcome.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday and Tuesday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Wednesday

7.30am & 10am

Penitential Service, Parish Church at 7.30pm.

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Easter Sunday

Easter Vigil 9pm (Saturday) 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 6am (Dawn Mass)

9.30am (in the Church).

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

See Holy week Timetable on the back cover.



Chrism Mass

You are warmly invited to join with Bishop Denis and

the priests of the diocese in the Cathedral, Carlow at 7:30pm on Monday, April 3rd to celebrate the Chrism Mass - this is the largest diocesan celebration during the year!



Today we welcome
Bishop Denis, and wish
him a Happy Easter.
Celebrant of our 10am
Mass in the Parish Church.





We welcome into our Parish Community
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Caragh Adeline Greene, Woodgrove
Who were baptised last weekend.

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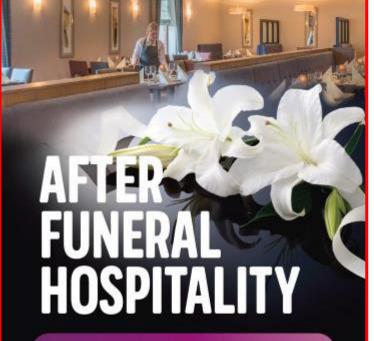
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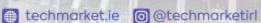
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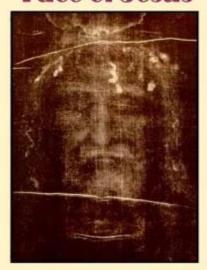




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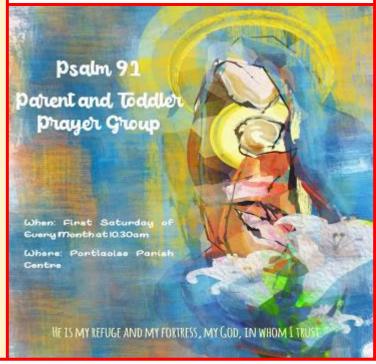
Statue To Our Lady, Top Square Portlaoise . 086-0696295

Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven, "Matt 10:32"



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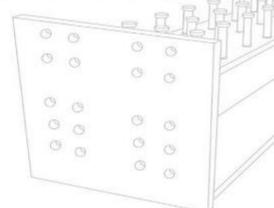
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NEW CATHOLIC HOLIDAY **FESTIVAL ARISE**

10th to 13th April 2023 In Tramore, Waterford For more details visit

www.arisefamilyfestival.ie

Portlaoise Active Retirement meet each Wednesday in the Parish Centre for friendship, fun activities and learning, new members always welcome.

Monday 3rd April; Bowls St. Marys Sports Hall at 3pm, new members welcome.

Wednesday 5th April; Club day 3pm

Thursday 6th; No Cards in Sue Ryder Centre as its Holy Thursday, we will resume after Easter.

Any outstanding money for holiday needs to be payed immediately. Wishing all our members a very Happy Easter. For any further information call Shella pro at 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 28th March;

Top Score: Norah Delaney | 1st Lady: Kit Farrell | 2nd Lady: P. Dowling | 1st Gent: Liam McCartney 2nd Gent: Tom Kearns | 1st Half: Frank Keenan | 2nd Half: Christy Fitzpatrick

Raffle: 1st Michael O' Brien | 2nd Betty Fox | 3rd Frank Keenan | 4th Betty Murphy | 5th Norah Delaney Thanks to everyone for their support. Whist continues every Tuesday night, 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Anyone interested in learning to play, contact Breda Cooley.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

Legion of Mary; Dear Lord, just as long ago you entered Jerusalem, may you now enter the hearts of all your people and fill them with the desire for peace throughout the world.

Rosary will be prayed for Lent in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, Monday-Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 3pm. Divine Mercy Chaplet 3pm every Sunday in the Parish Church.

Gospel Readings; Fr. Eddie guided a group every Friday to reflect on the Sunday readings. This group has now recommenced and all are welcome, Friday after 10am Mass. Contact Angela 086-0683085.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society will meet in the Heath room of the Parish Centre, Tuesday 4th April after 10am Mass. New members welcome.

Rosary will be prayed at the Shrine in the Top Square, Portlaoise, this Sunday at 2.30pm and on the first Sunday of every month.

Emmanuel House Clonfert, Co. Galway; First five Saturdays devotions and Healing Service led by Eddie Stones and team, Saturday 1st April at 11am. Rosary, talks, music, confessions and Holy Mass. Please bring a packed lunch. Schedule for Healing Services; Wednesdays 11am and Thursdays 7pm with Confession and Holy Mass included.





Ratheniska National School **Parents Association**

Coffee Morning

Easter Sunday after 10am Mass in the hall - Entry €2 for Tea/Coffee. Bake Sale and Monster Raffle with some music, games and a catch up. All support greatly appreciated.

Pictured Left;

Pupils from 2nd Class, Tobar an Léinn celebrating their First Reconciliation recently in St. Fintan's Church, Raheen.





Lay Your Cloak Before Him

In the day when Jesus lived, many people wore a garment called a cloak. It was a loose outer garment similar to the cape that the super heroes wore. It provided them protection against the harsh winds and blowing sand in the desert. It also provided protection from the hot desert sun. In our Bible lesson today, we will see a very unusual way the people used their cloaks.

Jesus and his disciples were walking toward Jerusalem and had stopped near a small village called Bethphage. Jesus sent two of his disciples to go on ahead into the village. He told them that when they got there, they would find a donkey and her colt which they were to bring back to him. Of course the disciples were a bit concerned because they imagined that these animals might belong to someone who might not appreciate having their animals taken. Jesus simply told them, "Tell them that the Lord needs them and they will let you have them." So the disciples went into town and sure enough, there was a donkey and her colt. They grabbed them and as they were leaving, someone asked why they were taking the animals. They answered, "It is for the Lord." And the people let them take them just as Jesus had said they would. When they arrived back at the camp, the disciples took their cloaks and put them on the donkey to make a nice soft seat for Jesus. Jesus got on the donkey and headed toward Jerusalem.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, a very large crowd gathered to welcome him. Some of them spread their cloaks on the road for Jesus to ride on, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Why would they do that? They were treating Jesus like a king!

The Bible tells us that the crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

The people greeted Jesus as a King that day. Today, Jesus wants to be your King -- and he will be if you will allow him to come into your heart and rule over your life. Lay down your cloak to greet your King as he comes to you in love.



Dear Jesus
Jesus, come into our lives and
create in us a new heart. May we
excitedly welcome you just as those
that awaited your arrival in Jerusalem did.
Thank you for being here with us.
We praise you Lord! Amen.



The Triumphal Entry



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story. Jesus sent two ______, saying to them, "Go to the _____ ahead of you, and at once you will find a ______ tied there, with her by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large ______ spread their ______on the road, while others From the trees and spread them on the ______. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed to the Son of David!" Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! "Hosanna in the highest!" BRANCHES COLT DISCIPLES HOSANNA SHOUTED CLOAKS CROWD DONKEY ROAD VILLAGE Q. Why do bees hum? A. Because they don't know the words.

Q. When is the best time to go to bed?

A. Anytime, the bed won't come to you.

Q. Why did the young boy take his

A. He didn't want to walk in his sleep.



Time to Think!

The Gift of Holy Week

How often do we find ourselves thinking where has time gone? Already in 2023, we have moved from the darkness of winter into the freshness of brighter evenings with the sounds of birds making their nests and the beautiful colours of early spring blossoms. Holy Week, brings us to the conclusion of lent and invites us to embrace the intensity of emotion and spiritual grace that comes from the passion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, in the fullness of his humanity, embraces the depth of what it is to be vulnerable. It is in our vulnerability, where we discover resilience strength and empathy. "By his wounds we are healed". I pray that this grace filled and indeed Holy Week, will bring rich blessing to us all.

This Palm Sunday, we begin Holy Week. Seven days, filled with Religious Symbolism and Rituals, from Washing Feet to Venerating the Cross. Holy Week, is indeed a true gift to embrace. Holy Week, tells the very hopeful story of Jesus' great love and resilient compassion. A free love, given in an absolute fashion, a love, told powerfully by a God who "lay down his life for his friends". For this reason, the days of Holy Week resonate with many emotions felt within all our hearts. The joy and intimacy at a family meal, the pain of not knowing our future, the emptiness, because of a loved one's death and the transforming hope and joy on Easter Sunday; Jesus risen from the dead.

This is a powerful story, a story that through the symbol of a cross continues to offer hope. We all have Crosses; when we look at the call to take up our cross, we tend to think of the way God asks us to accept and embrace the sufferings and hardships that come from living in this fallen world. While we have a difficult time understanding why a good God allows his people to suffer, we all know what suffering feels like, and we can understand how it can be linked to the cross. This kind of suffering can be physical or spiritual or psychological. It can range from cancer to the inner wounds caused by someone who persecutes you because of your faith. It can come in the form of addiction, depression and anxiety. It can come from our standing up for innocent life in a culture of death, or it can come from having to endure the pain of a broken relationship. Whatever its source, we all have situations in our lives that we could honestly call "crosses" that we have to bear. It is important to see, however, that before we accept or embrace any cross we may encounter, we should feel free to ask the Lord to remove it from us. Yes, Jesus told us to carry our crosses. But at the same time he himself healed many people. He removed their crosses because of his love & compassion. Just as Jesus removed the crosses from these people, there are many instances where he wants to remove ours. He knows all about our suffering, and he is with us. He loves to heal us.

One of the great models of the church in the Second Vatican Council is that of the church being a living dynamic community of faith, "the people of God". This week Jesus reminds us all that essentially our church is local; familiar places where we share meals, support and encourage.



Holy Week

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with you". Jesus continues to wash our feet through the hands of parents, caring for their family, voluntary organisations who support often the most vulnerable in our society.

Jesus in Gethsemane reminds us that we are not alone. His fragile and very vulnerable experience of doubt, frustration and extreme anxiety is a powerful solidarity with so many who are uncertain and overwhelmed. Jesus dying on the cross is an invitation to new life. His kingdom is not for those who have it all, but firstly, for those who are in want of something greater. His word to a dying thief – "Today you will be with me in paradise". His dying arms outstretched are an invitation to all people to turn to his love. Jesus on the cross embraces the depth of our humanity and in doing so makes us new and powerful. "By his wounds we are healed". Without the cross we have no Easter. It is through suffering; Jesus gives us Easter - Hope.

Holy Week concludes not in the darkness of loss, but in the brightness and presence of new life. God's victory over death, is a radical transformation in the history of human mortality. We are transformed from out of death, by virtue of Christ's resurrection, into the mystery of new life, of eternal light and peace, "Our true home is in Heaven". The Easter anthem of "Alleluia" is a hymn that sings with great hope, yes we can overcome and everything is possible, when we place our trust in almighty God. May this Easter joy, bring where there is darkness light, where there is fear, hope and above all may we appreciate we are not alone, God indeed is very near.

The Prayer of Abandonment, written by Blessed Charles de Foucauld, is one of the most beautiful prayers of surrender in the Christian spiritual heritage.

Father

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will

Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul;

I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,

for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands,

without reserve,

and with boundless confidence,

for you are my Father.



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Anna Mai Champions "Living Well"



Anna Mai McHugh, the undisputed Queen of Ploughing visited the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise on Tuesday, 21st Age Friendly March, to formally launch the LIVING WELL Expo event, which will take place in Portlaoise College R32 N7 95, on 13th April, 4pm to 8pm.



This event, which is a joint health and wellbeing initiative, co-ordinated by Healthy Laois and Age Friendly Laois, will include talks, demonstrations and over sixty exhibitors, who will showcase the range of supports and services available to people/ communities of all ages in Laois, enabling them to Live Well. Anna Mai is our Laois Age Friendly Ambassador and will open the Living Well event in April.

This will be a fun event says Healthy Laois Co-ordinator Emma O'Connor, with cooking demonstrations, CPR, training, talks and exhibitions to help the people of Laois find the services and products they need in one space. We recognise the many factors that influence Health and so will have information on Grants, Energy Savings, Home Safety and Technology, in addition to a full range of Health Initiatives and information on Living well.

An action-packed FREE event is promised said Tom Curran, Age Friendly Laois programme Manager. Information will be available on a wide range of services available to help improve the Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing of the people of Laois. Our Fun Live stage area will host live cooking shows, talks and demonstrations throughout the event and these will be of interest and benefit to both individuals and those involved with community groups and organisations.

Throughout the venue, there will be music, singing and activities to keep everyone entertained and on their toes. Free Health Checks will also be available and complimentary tea and light refreshments can be enjoyed, while attending the event. There are a small number of exhibition places remaining and for further information about exhibiting or attending, please contact: Tom 086-0363426 | tcurran@laoiscoco.ie, or Emma 086 0665215 | eoconnor@laoiscoco.ie

Groups are encouraged to **pre-register** to ensure quick access for their members.









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Living Well EXPOEVENT

Thursday, 13th April, 4 - 8pm

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| Support Groups

| Healthy Age Friendly Homes

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For more info and to pre-register groups contact:

Tom - tcurran@laoiscoco.ie | 086 036 3426

Emma - eoconnor@laoiscoco.ie | 086 066 5215

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY;



Mary Hickey née Bartley St. John's Square, Portlaoise



Anna Constance Bland née Vesey Blandsfort, Ballyroan



Gary Robinson Sue Ryder, Ballyroan

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

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE Our sympathy to their families.

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



In Loving Memory of MARIA McDONALD

10 Beladd, Stradbally Rd., Portlaoise. 3rd Anniversary occurred 25th March 2023



Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond words, And missed beyond measure.

Sadly missed by her sons Lee & Cody, daughters Sharon, Margaret, Sierra and Jan, grandchildren & sons-in-law,

sister Angela and her good friend Kathleen.

Rest in Reace Maria



In Loving Memory of **GAY O' SULLIVAN**



née Flynn

Ennis, Co. Clare, formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise. Died 15th March 2023



Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her sisters Phyllis Graham, Ballydavis and Ann O' Connor, Liogard and her brother Liam Flynn, Dundalk.

Rest in Reace Say



In Loving Memory of RICHARD OLIVER LODGE



Stradbally Rd., Portlaoise. 20th Anniversary occurred 6th March 2023



Your life was love and labour, Your love for your family true, You did your best for all of us, We will always remember you.

Always remembered by his family and friends and sons Kealan and Crevan.

Rest in Reace Richard



In Loving Memory of MÁIRE HUGHES née Hegarty

Garrykennedy, Portroe, Nenagh. 4th Anniversary occurred 20th March 2023

Will those who think of Máire today, A little prayer to Jesus say.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all her loving family and friends. Also remembering other deceased members of the Hughes family.

Rest in Reace Máire



In Loving Memory of *MARIA MORAN*



Dr Murphy Place, Portlaoise. 6th Anniversary occurs 9th April 2023.



6th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Easter Sunday, 9th April at 10am.

Sadly missed by her loving husband and family.

May Maria Rest in Reace



In Loving Memory of SADIE BOHAN

Late of 34 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. 39th Anniversary occurs 2nd April 2022



We cannot forget the face we loved or the memory of your smile or the countless things you did for us to make our lives worthwhile, It has been lonely here without you and grows lonelier everyday,

The world has been a sadder place since the world took you away, but we know you walk beside us, and when our lives are through we pray that God will take our hands and lead us straight to you.

Always remembered by her sons Billy, John, Michael, Maurice, Eugene, Dermot and Brian, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

May Badie Rest in Reace



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of RICHARD SHEEHY

10 Liffey View, Newbridge. 1st Anniversary occurs 2nd April 23.



On the occasion of Richards, first anniversary, his sister Peg and extended Sheehy family would like to thank very much everyone who supported them with friendship, support and kindness during Richards illness and passing and all those who attended the removal and

funeral.

Thanks to Anderson and Leahy for their professional funeral arrangements. We thank the doctors and staff of Tallaght, Naas and Portlaoise hospitals.

Special thanks to Bernie and all her staff in Ballard Lodge, nursing home Portlaoise for their loving, tender care of Richard in his final few months.

Thanks to Deirdre, Lourda, staff and Dad's army of the Heath Golf Club for their kindness to Richard during his years there. Many thanks to Fr. Eugen for Richards lovely funeral Mass and to the Altar boys and musicians. Also our thanks to Sarsfields GAA for their food and refreshments.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere gratitude to you all.

Mass will be offered for your intentions.

1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Newbridge Parish Church on Sunday, 9th April at 11am.

Rest in Reace Richard



In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Mother BERNADETTE COYNE

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. 8th Anniversary occurred 29th March 2023.



Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard but always near,
So loved, so missed, so very dear.
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.

Will those who think of Bernie today, A little prayer to Jesus say.



Thinking of you today and always xx

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

May Bernie's gentle soul Rest in Reace



In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Sister BERNIE COYNE

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. 8th Anniversary occurred 29th March 2023.



No matter how life changes, No matter what we do, A special place within our hearts, is always kept for you.

Remembered always by your loving sister Kitty, brother-in-law Donie and family and also your three sisters Mary, Peggy and Trish xx

May Bernie's gentle soul Rest in Reace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE Precious memories of a dear Son and Brother MARTIN WALSH Jnr.

118 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. 49th Birthday Remembrance occurred 26th March



Our lives go on without you Martin but nothing is the same, The special years will not return when we were all together.

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

Also remembering Martin's Dad at this time.

May They both Rest in Reace



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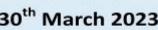
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Portlaoise Parish



Results for 30th March 2023



18





No €15,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Tom Timmons Mary B White Maureen Troy D. W.& W. McEvoy Marie Conroy John Kinsella **Kevin Carroll Kevin Coss Betty Coughlan**

MATCH 3s €1,000

Match 35 Receive €112 each

PROMOTER

Tom Timmons **Online Lotto Online Lotto** Catherine McEvoy Martley's Richie Lyons Paul Dooley **Declan Fitzpatrick** Ann Carroll

Play PARISH





& Like Us (portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €16,000



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Isaiah 50:4 -7 | Psalm 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. Philippians 2:6-11: Gospel Matthew 26:14-27:66

Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of collection baskets at Sunday Masses for support. Thank you to the many who have found new ways of continuing to support the Parish. The generosity of so many means we continue to be well supported. Please find your way to contribute.

- * Making your offering in the boxes at the entrances
- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations 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



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722 E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley Agnieszka Kaczmarek

> Accounts Michelle Conroy Sacristans Parish Church Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

All Masses and services from the Parish Church 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

Holy Week Celebrations

Monday & Tuesday

7:30am, 10am & Holy Mass 7:30pm

Wednesday

7:30am & 10am Holy Mass Penitential Service 7:30pm

Holy Thursday

Morning Prayer 10am Confessions 10:15am to 12noon and after the 7:30pm Celebration

Mass of the Lord's Supper:

- Parish Church 3pm and 7:30pm

- The Heath & Ratheniska 7pm

Quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday

Morning Prayer 10am 10:15am to 12noon Confessions

Commemoration of Lord's Passion:

- Parish Church

- The Heath & Ratheniska 7pm

Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church - Parish Church

Prayer Around the Cross in the Parish Church

7:30pm

- Parish Church 9pm

Holy Saturday

10am Morning prayer

10:15am to 12noon Confessions

12noon Polish Blessing of Food Vigil Mass - Parish Church 9pm



Easter Sunday

Dawn Mass - The Heath 6am

Day Mass

- Parish Church

8:30am, 10am,

11:15am & 12:30pm

- The Heath

9:30am

- Ratheniska

10am

