

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**

9th July 2023

**Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**



Portlaoise Tidy Towns published the following on their Facebook page and made the photograph available to us. Our grateful thanks to all who help keep our Town tidy and looking well. *'To our amazement, this group from Ukraine, now living in Portlaoise, carrying all their worries of back home, offered to come and do something for Portlaoise. So last week they met with Portlaoise Tidy Towns and weeded flower beds, cleaned footpaths and did trojan work around our town. How lucky are we to have such people within our midst. Thank you!'*



Photo courtesy of Portlaoise Tidy Towns

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Out of the Mouths of Babes

How often do we laughingly say, "....Out of the mouths of babes!" We usually say it when one of the junior members of our family has stated a glaring or embarrassing truth. To children the truth is black and white, but the older we get the more we tend to complicate issues that really ought to be very simple. Perhaps we want to dress up the truth with our own interpretations. Perhaps we want to disguise truths that make us feel uncomfortable. Whatever the reasons, as we get older the truth is harder for us to recognise.



Today Jesus criticizes the religious leaders who over complicate the law. Jesus was concerned for those people at the bottom of the social heap who could not live up to the six hundred and thirteen commandments of the Jewish law. Jesus' intention was not to do away with the law, but he could not support the lawyers who spent their time manufacturing new and insufferable burdens for broken people. To the broken people Jesus says, **"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."**

The demands of the twenty first century puts many challenges our way, and we spend a lot of our time juggling priorities and trying to live our lives by more than one agenda. Our lives are complicated and overly burdened. We look for the solutions to our problems in lifestyle magazines and in bottles of pills no longer able to recognise simple truths. Why don't we look more to God for solutions? God wants us all to have peace and fulfilment; all we have to do is to yield to God's agenda. The smallest child knows the difference between what is important and what is not. Why can't we?

When Jesus says, **"My burden is light,"** he does not mean that Christianity is an easy way out ... he simply means that his demands aren't weighed down with rules and regulations that we aren't capable of meeting. **"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."**

Bitesize

Character is what emerges from all the little things you were too busy to do yesterday, but did anyway.

Mass times for the coming week (Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday to Friday: 7.30am & 10am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.

We welcome into our Parish Community

Leighton Paul Delaney, O'Moore Place

Jim Daniel Delaney, O'Moore Place

Tomás Cosgrave, Ard Brannagh, Dublin Road

Libby Breda McEvoy-Keane, Woodgrove Lawns

Who were baptised last weekend.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July 2023



Pope Francis tells us: "Each time we receive the Bread of Life, Jesus comes to give new meaning to our fragilities. He reminds us that in his eyes we are more precious than we think. He tells us he is pleased if we share our fragilities with him. He repeats to us that his mercy is not afraid of our miseries. The mercy of Jesus is not afraid of our miseries. And above all he heals us from those fragilities that we cannot heal on our own, with love.... "The Eucharist heals because it unites with Jesus: it makes us assimilate his way of living." We are invited to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention for July, "...."We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters."

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Welcome Fr. Octavian

Fr. Octavian Enache who spent some time with us last year during his summer break from studies in Rome, is with us again until the middle of August. He is a colleague of Fr. Ciprian, both from the Diocese of Bucharest, Romania. We welcome him and hope he enjoys his stay and ministry among us.



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The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church,

Thursday 13th July 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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Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 4th July:

Top Score: Margaret Flanagan | **1st Lady:** Veronica Kearns | **2nd Lady:** Molly O'Brien | **1st Gent:** P.J. Cahill

2nd Gent: Tom Gowing & Tom Jacob | **1st Half:** Norah Delaney | **2nd Half:** Mary Gowing

Raffle: 1st Sadie Chester | 2nd B O'Brien | 3rd A. O'Dowd | 4th B. Fitzpatrick | 5th A. Brennan

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

Anyone interested in learning to play, classes in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays from 10am to 11.30am.

Pioneer News: The Portlaoise Pioneers would like to apologise for the short notice given on Friday 30th June last in relation to the cancellation of the Mass and presentation of pins and certificates which was due to take place that evening. This was due to circumstances beyond control. Notices will be sent out when new date and time has been arranged. Thank you for your understanding.

Variety Night in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel on Thursday 7th September, a night not to be missed with top class artists, presented by Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group. More details later.

Raheen Pantomime Group (under new management): Anyone interested in performing and taking part on or off stage with Raheen Panto Group "oh yes there is!", please contact Kevin 087-9614235.

Would you be willing to provide companionship or make calls to Older People once a week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested please visit www.alone.ie/volunteers for more information, e-mail Fiona; fiona.boyle@alone.ie or call 086-1366539.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

Divine Mercy Chaplet 3pm every Sunday in the Parish Church.

Petition Wall in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church: Please pray for all petitions and you are welcome to place a petition on the wall at any time.





When Your Load Is Heavy

How strong are you? Do you think you are pretty strong? How many of you think you could pick a brick? How about a dumbbell? Well, you must be pretty strong then. How many of you think you could pick up a car? Oh, you don't think you could pick up a car? Well, I think you could if you had some help. Something that would help you, would be an automobile jack. If you put this jack underneath the car and pump the handle, you can easily lift a car that weighs over 3,000 pounds! Yes, with the help of a jack, you can lift a car, but you couldn't do it alone, could you?



Some of you have some pretty heavy burdens to carry in life. Perhaps you have a physical disability that makes your life difficult. Or, perhaps your father has lost his job and your family is having financial difficulties. Maybe someone in your family has cancer or some other serious illness and you are worried about them. You may be having a hard time making passing exams in school. I don't know what the burdens are that you have in your life, but I do know that there are some that you just can't handle by yourself. Well, guess what? You don't have to!

Jesus said, "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.**" There is no reason for you to struggle with burdens that are too heavy for you. God's Word is full of promises to help us in times of trouble. Here are just a few: "**Don't be afraid, I am with you.**" (Gen.26:24) "**I'll give you strength.**" (Psalm 28:7) "**I'm with you in times of trouble.**" (Psalm 34:6) These words of encouragement are just what we need to face the hard times that may come our way.

Does that mean that if we will ask him, God will take all of our troubles away? No, but he will help us. In fact, some of our struggles may help us to grow and become stronger. They may also help us to learn to trust in Jesus. But when the load is too heavy, he will help us to carry it -- and there is no burden that is too heavy for Jesus.

Dear Father,
we are thankful that when we struggle under the load of life's
burdens, you are there to help us carry the load.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





Time to Think!

Caoimhín (Kevin) O'Neill R.I.P.

Kevin was a giant of a man in so many ways. Throughout his life in all things his role was one of captain, the eldest and proud captain of the O'Neill family whom he cherished and adored, captain of many teams and associations from hurling and all things GAA, captain and initiator to the arts community bringing art and culture in a more accessible way particularly to the people of Carlow, with the establishment of the Eigse arts festival culminating in the visual arts centre, now a cathedral where creativity is celebrated, nourishing hope and inspiration. Captain not just as President of Carlow College, but as director of formation for so many young men, as they discerned their vocation, many of whom have made significant contributions as ministers of the Gospel, a Gospel vision that for Kevin fuelled his priestly life.

Perhaps it wasn't by accident that in the dignity and gentleness of his own home in his own bed surrounded by love, he gently entered into new life on the feast of Saint Peter and Paul and for him perhaps more locally the pattern day at Saint Fintan's well near the ancient Christian communities of Clonenagh and Cromogue.

Peter and Paul both captains of the good news, bold in their witness determined in the message that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour, a God who embraces and heals, who inspires hope and confidence, who rejoices in our gifts and talents and always who loves us as we are. Kevin in his creative preaching, a gift that so enhanced our liturgies in this parish once likened the ancient Saints of Laois to a hurling team. Kevin claimed that Fintan was the captain and detailed that he looked like Joe Canning. He loved Laois. He was a Laois man true and true.

I, like many of you loved Kevin greatly, his intellect, his passion for learning and language but most of all like Peter, Paul and Fintan his vulnerability. Being a captain brings with it not just responsibility but also often at a huge personal cost.



His was a prophetic voice often crying in the wilderness. His was a Theological vision that sadly is so absent and silent in an institution that's so starved of the likes of this prophetic voice. Caoimhin pre-empted the radical secularisation of our culture and was always up to speed regarding the signs of our times.

Kevin carried his cross of terminal illness true to form, courageous, resilient, and fiercely determined. His final weeks were grace filled weeks in his beloved 'Emmaus' where he like the two disciples who walked its original pathway, had time to revisit sacred memories, reunite sacred friendships and all times in the company of his wonderful family. Emmaus became a sacred place where the Risen Christ, listened, loved and healed in what is an amazing Grace.

Last night I had a deep sense of contentment and peace that Kevin now enjoys. He would have been so proud that some of his nieces and nephews played hurling outside as his remains rested in Emmaus. I heard the scripture did not our "hearts burn within us"...

Caoimhin like Peter, Paul and Fintan, you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race and you have kept the faith.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 30,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



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Rubin George and Biniya Jacob (from Muscat, Oman) celebrated their 10th Wedding Anniversary in Ireland and visited our Parish last Thursday. Pictured above; Fr. David & Rubin and Biniya with their family.

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



Michael (Mick) Ging
Green Road, Portlaoise



Peter O'Shea
Clogherinkoe, Kildare and
formerly Portlaoise



**Margaret (Peggy)
Blackwell**
née Maher
Ballinakill and Tramore

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
MARY FLYNN**

Lakeglen, Green Rd. Portlaoise.

23rd Anniversary occurs 8th July

*Wherever I go, whatever I do, memories
of your love keep me near to you.*

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

May Mary Rest in Peace



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† In Loving Memory of my Precious Son †

JAMIE-LEE MOORE

8th Anniversary occurs 10th July 2023

Son

Our time together was short but
special, so were the memories we
made,

And although you live in Heaven
now, those memories will never
fade.

I bow my head in silence and
remember my son with love,
And I know that you are up there
watching from above.

Every day is a struggle and nothing feels the same and my
heart breaks a little more, every time I hear your name.
You'll always be remembered and time may heal my heart,
But a piece of me is missing since the day we had to part.
If Heaven is for angels then I know that's where you'll be,
And I know you will be waiting when Heaven calls for me.
Love and miss you always Jamie-Lee, Mammy xxxxxxxx

Brother

Our hearts have been left broken, since the day you had to
go, and the memories we treasure dearly, are in the tears
that still flow,

You're in our thoughts everyday, and that's how it will
always be, for you may be up in Heaven now, but you'll
always be with us.

If only we could have the chance to see your face once
more, or to hear your voice one final time, just like it was
before.

Love and miss you Jamie, always and forever.
Tanya, Tirna, Jake and Taylor xxxxxxxx

Uncle

Holy Angels up above, give our uncle Jamie-Lee a great big
hug.

**From all your nieces, Kyra, Nelly, Jamie, Loran and Darla
xxxxxxx**

Nephew/Grandson

Although you sleep in Heaven now, you're not that far
away, our hearts are full of memories and you're with us
everyday,

You lived your life with meaning and with a smile upon your
face, a world that was full of happiness is now an empty
place.

People say that only time will heal the broken hearts,
But just like us and you, it has been torn apart,
We know you are at peace now and in a place where you
are free, meet us at the pearly gates of Heaven when
Heaven calls for us.

**Love and miss you always, Aunty Sharon, James, kids,
Nanny Maureen, Margaret, Caroline and boys and uncle
Kevin xxxxxxxx**

May Jamie Lee Rest in Peace

***In Loving Memory of
DENIS (Hector) PHELAN***

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

1st Birthday away from home occurred 1st July 2023



Hector, you were one of life's true treasures and sadly taken away too soon. We thank you for all the happy memories we had together and we will cherish them forever.

*Happy Heavenly birthday big lad
Love always*

Lol, Tracy, Lenny and Theo xxx

Rest in Peace Denis

***In Loving Memory of
DENIS (Hector) PHELAN***

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

1st Birthday away from home occurred 1st July 2023



Our gentle giants first birthday away from home. Happy birthday Din, you live on in all of our hearts. Your stories, your love and your memories that you left with us will last lifetimes and will never be forgotten. We miss you every single day.

Sadly missed and dearly loved forever by Kit, Hilda, Richie, Holly, Kurt, Luke and Caroline xxx

Rest in Peace Denis

Birthday Remembrance

***In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN DOYLE***

45 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

2nd Birthday away from home occurs 9th July 2023.



*Gone are the days we used to share,
But in my heart you are
always there,
The gates of memories will
never close,*

*I miss you more than anyone knows,
With tender love and deep regret,
We who love you will never forget.*

*Never forgotten by your loving husband Joe,
your sister-in-law Ellen, Guggie and Mary.*

Rest in Peace Kathleen

***In Loving Memory of
JOHANNA SCULLY***

5 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

14th Anniversary occurs 10th July 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 9th July at 12:30pm.

Loving memories of one so dear,
Treasured still with a love sincere,
In our hearts she is living yet,
We loved her too dearly to forget.

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

Also remembering her husband Patrick at this time.

Rest in Peace Johanna

***In Loving Memory of
THOMAS (Tom) LALOR***

Late of 19 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 19th July 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Saturday 15th July at 6:30pm.

*Life is a beautiful memory,
Death is a silent grief,
You sleep now in God's beautiful garden,
In sunshine and perfect peace.
We miss you oh so very much,
but trust that God knew best,
He let us have you for many years,
And then gently let you rest.*

*Loved and sadly missed by his loving wife Bernie,
daughter Anne-Marie, son-in-law Blane and
grandchildren Harley and Bella-Rose.*

Rest in Peace Tom

***In Loving Memory of
KAY DEVOY***

Late of Borris Great, Portlaoise.

10th Anniversary occurs 12th July 2023.



*It doesn't take a special day to
bring you to our mind,
For days without a thought of
you are very hard to find.
You always tried to do your best,
Your heart was true and tender,
You simply lived for those you
loved, and those you loved
remember.*

Loved and remembered by all your family and friends.

May Kay Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
GERALDINE LEWIS (née Buggy)
The Heath, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 11th July 2023



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

Geraldine, they say that time is a healer, but as time goes on, I seem to find it just as hard to face the fact you're gone.

And today is the anniversary of the day you went away, and I'm standing here at your graveside, and believe me when I say; You'll never be forgotten, and every year I'll shed a tear, but it's only because I love you, and wish you were still here.

Always loved and remembered by your loving husband Derek, children Serena, Rachel and Darragh and grandson Killian xxx

Rest in Peace Geraldine

In Loving Memory of
GERARD (Gerry)
BRENNAN

Late of 41 St. Brigid's Place and Scotland.
2nd Anniversary occurs Saturday 8th July 2023.



Just a prayer from the family that loved you, just a memory fond and true, In our hearts you will live forever, because we thought the world of you. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,

To love and cherish and never forget.

Loved, missed and remembered always by Mam Mena, brother Paul and family, sisters Angela, Marie and their families, extended relatives and friends and all your loving family in Scotland.

Rest in Peace Gerry

In Loving Memory of
GERALDINE LEWIS (née Buggy)
The Heath, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 11th July 2023



Geraldine there is a face before us,
A voice we would love to hear,
A smile we will always remember,
Of a daughter and sister we loved so dear.

As days go by without you,
And weeks turn into years,

They hold a million memories and hide a million tears.
And when we see your photo, you seem to smile and say; don't cry I'm only sleeping, until we meet some day.

Geraldine you are always in our thoughts and prayers, from Daddy, Mammy, Sean, Valerie, Edel and family xxx

Rest in Peace Geraldine

In Loving Memory of
MARGARET HOULIHAN
Late of 11 Mountain View, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 9th July 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 9th July at 12.30pm.

*Miss you Mammy
A thousand words could not bring you back, I know because I tried,*

*A thousand tears could not bring you back,
I know because I cried.*

*I really miss you Mammy, tell me:
I miss you Mammy,*

*Although your soul is at rest, and your body free from pain, the world would be like Heaven,
If I had you back again.*

*You're always in my thoughts no matter where I go,
Always in my heart, because I loved you so.
However long my life might last, whatever land I view, whatever joy or grief is mine,
I still remember you. I really miss you Mammy.*

Missed and loved so very much, from your sons Joseph and Andrew, daughter-in-law Lisa, grandkids Caleb and Rocco, daughter Lorraine and son-in-law Ali and granddaughter Shania xxx

Rest in Peace Margaret

In Loving Memory of
GERALDINE LEWIS
The Heath, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 11th July 2023.



Geraldine, we shared some laughs, we shared some tears, but best of all we shared great years.

No more tomorrows for us to share, but yesterday's memories will always be there.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by Trisha, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews. Also remembering her father-in-law Teddy Lewis.

Rest in Peace Geraldine



† In Loving Memory of †

ANNIE (Nan) McDONALD
Ridge Road, Portlaoise.



**TOM AND
MARGARET (Peg)
McEVOY**

3 Green Mill Lane,
Portlaoise.



*We miss you oh so very much, but trust that
God knew best. He let us have you for many years
and then gently let you rest.*

Sadly missed by your loving family.

*Also remembering deceased members of the
McDonald and McEvoy families.*

May They Rest in Peace

**Birthday Remembrance
In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN CONROY**

26 St. Johns Square, Portlaoise. 80th Birthday occurs 12th July.



*Wonderful memories of one so dear,
Treasured still with a love sincere,
In our hearts she is living yet,
We loved her too dearly to forget.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by your son Shaun*

Rest in Peace Kathleen

**In Loving Memory of
ANTHONY WALSH**

Late of 1 Oaklawn, Ballyfin Rd., Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs 15th July 2023



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
**Saturday 15th July at 6:30pm
and Sunday 16th at 11.15am.**

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

*Missed and remembered daily by your loving
sons John and Tony, daughter Catriona,
daughter-in-law Lisa and grandchildren.*

Also remembering Anthony's wife Kay at this time R.I.P.

May Anthony Rest in Peace

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
6th July 2023

02

20

24

28

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

David Galvin
Regina Haslam
Frank Morrissey
Tony O'Halloran
Ealish Nolan
Ann Buckley
Patty Critchley
Patrick Guidera
Adrienne Doheny
Ray Massey

MATCH 3s €1,000



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Parish Centre
Peter Ryan
David Tobin
Rita Watkins
Pam Killeen



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Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time
Zechariah 9:9-10 | Psalm: 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14
Romans 8:9, 11-13 | Matthew 11:25-30

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 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

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