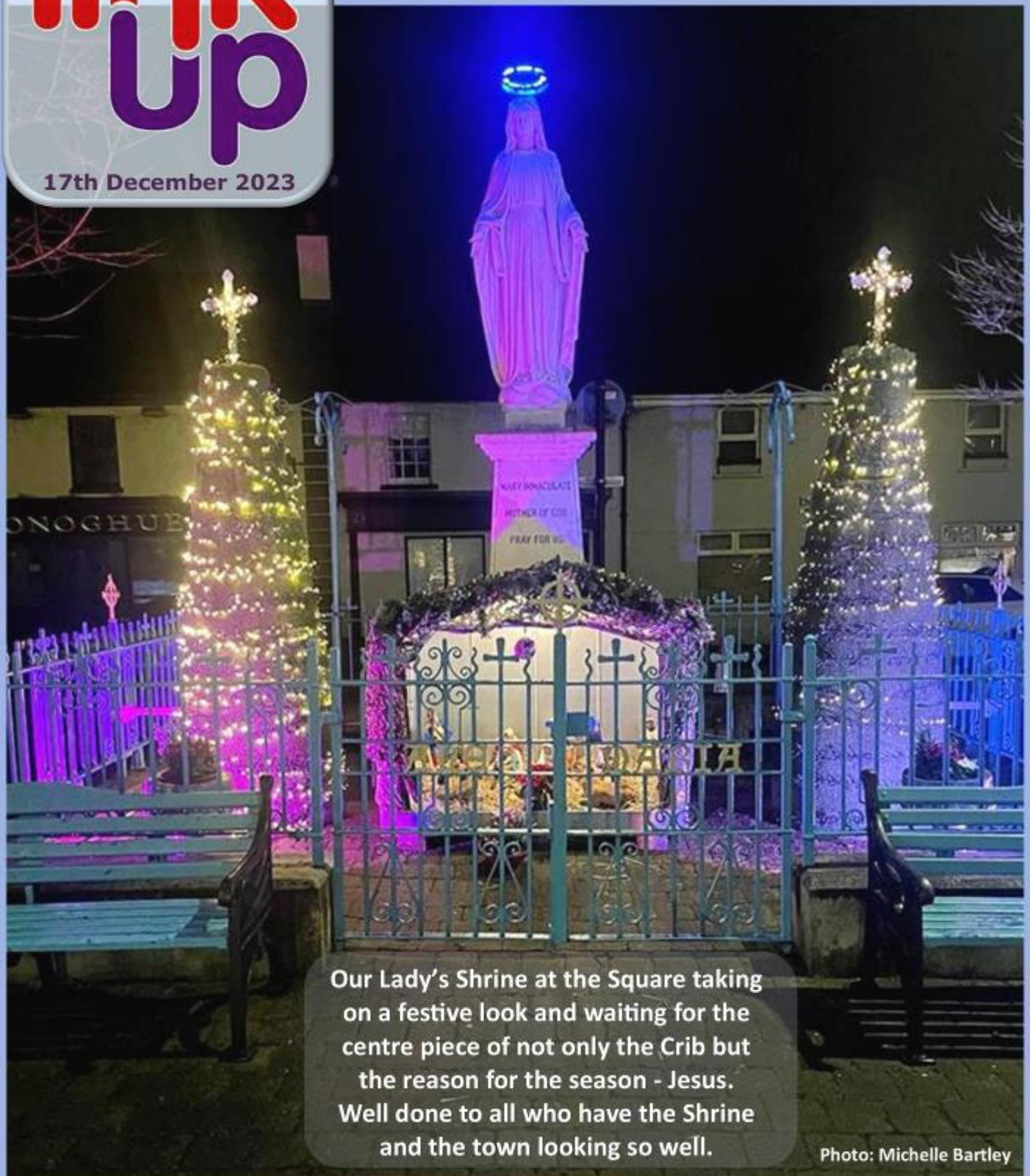


**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**

**link
up**

17th December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



Our Lady's Shrine at the Square taking on a festive look and waiting for the centre piece of not only the Crib but the reason for the season - Jesus. Well done to all who have the Shrine and the town looking so well.

Photo: Michelle Bartley

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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



Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Joy

Christmas Collection for the support of the Priests.

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Collectors for Christmas Masses

Usual Collectors are required to help in Church porches on Christmas Day for the Clergy Collection or if anyone is interested in helping out, please contact the Parish Office during office hours Tel: 0578621142.

Thank you.



Penitential Service
Parish Church
Monday 18th December
7.30pm.

*Christmas Arrangements
inside our Linkup on page 19*

Or visit our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie

An Advent Poem

by John Bell

Light looked down and saw the darkness

"I will go there" said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there said peace".

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there", said love.

So he, The Lord of Light,

The Prince of Peace,

The King of Love,

Came down and crept in beside us.

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

Monday - Saturday

7am (Christmas Novena) & 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 6.30pm Mass.

Come Lord Jesus

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11.

Psalm Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28



Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The Latin Gaudete is

translated as Rejoice, the first word of the introit. The reference to joy, hope and optimism are dominant at this point in Advent.

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



Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

Aiden John Wheeler Launder, Buckinghamshire

Rosie Ann O'Hara, Ralish, Abbeyleix

Who was baptised last weekend.



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Thurs 28th Dec 9am - 2pm

Fri 29th Dec 9am - 2pm

Mon 1st Jan - Closed

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*We also welcome back Nicola Caldbeck to our clinic
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Portlaoise/Abbeyleix Municipal District



*Wishing you all a very Happy and Peaceful
Christmas and best wishes for the New Year*



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- Chair of Laois County Council
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Please feel free to contact me about any issue you may have.



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Shanahoe Community Hall Committee
would like to invite you to our

Christmas
Eve Community Party

December 24, 2023
after 3pm mass

Join us after Christmas Eve mass in
Shanahoe Community Hall
for a hot drink, a sweet treat and a
catch up with neighbours

Portlaoise Active Retirement meet every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm in the Parish centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun and activities.

Monday 18th; Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

Wednesday 20th; Get together in the Parish Centre at 3pm.

Thursday 21st; No cards until after Christmas, probably January 12th.

Club closing down after get together on December 20th until January 10th We wish all our members health and happiness and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and hope to see you all back in January, refreshed and ready for another year. For further information please contact P.R.O. Sheila at 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre on Tuesday, 12th December:

Top Score: Kit Farrell | **1st Lady:** Breda Fitzpatrick | **2nd Lady:** Freda Gaynor | **1st Gent:** Liam McCarthy
2nd Gent: Angela Brennan | **1st Half:** Mary Gowing | **2nd Half:** Frank Keenan

Raffle: 1st Agnes Holland | 2nd Tom Gowing | 3rd Theresa Mulhare | 4th Sean Bourke | 5th Breda Fitzpatrick
6th Tom Dunne. Thanks to everyone for their support. Whist continues Tuesday nights at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Shanahoe Community Hall Progressive 25 card game: Winners from 1st December - Jimmy Ryan, Liam Dunphy, Paddy Walsh and Jimmy Mahoney. Our next card game is January 5th 2024.



RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

Rosary in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath; Daily 2pm (Monday-Saturday) and Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2024 Sponsorship Application; The Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee would like to advise that a box will be available in the Parish Church on the right hand side of Our Lady statue, for anyone wishing to apply for full or partial sponsorship on our 2024 pilgrimage. If your application is for medical reasons, a doctors clearance for you to travel must accompany your application. If you are nominating another person please make the person aware before you place their name in the box. All applications must include a name and current telephone number. This box will remain open for applications from 1st December 2023 until 5th January 2024.

Lourdes Parish Lourdes Committee Savings Scheme; Our savings scheme will finish on Friday 14th December and will resume on Thursday 4th January in the Parish Centre, 3-4pm.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Portlaoise St. Vincent de Paul Committee were due to complete their annual Collection this weekend 16th/17th December, having said that we have decided to forgo the Collection with respect for another local charity that volunteer locally.

Donations can be made in our Vincent's Shop Portlaoise, thank you for your ongoing support, all donations are distributed in our local community.

Respectively Yours - SVP Committee.



Fatima Invalid Fund Committee receiving a cheque for €400 from Veronica Phelan and Derek Scully, proceeds from Electric Picnic.

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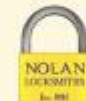
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A PERFECT
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We would like to thank the people of Portlaoise once again. There was an error in the total raised in last weekend's edition. The correct amount raised was €5,525.

*With grateful appreciation
Helen Corbett
Portlaoise Concern Group*

CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN

The Heath N.S. Parents Council will host a Christmas Tractor Run on Sunday 17th December at 5pm. Registration in the hall beside the Church from 4pm on the day. €20 per tractor. All funds raised going to The Heath N.S. There will be a children's tractor run at 4.30pm.



The Light of the World

In the Gospel today tells us that God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light - Jesus - so that everyone would believe. John wasn't the light. He only came to tell others about the light. Jesus is the one true light, who gives light

to everyone. Let's think about lights in our lives to help us think about that.

When do you need light or what do you need light for?

At this time of year, we see lights everywhere that remind us of the coming of Jesus, the true light that John told about.

Those lights can help us remember that Jesus is the one true light in our hearts and in our lives. Jesus brought light into the darkness of this world. Think of a way Jesus brings light into your heart and life. Let's pray and thank God for Jesus - the light of the world.

JESUS IS THE
LIGHT OF THE
WORLD



PRAYER

Dear God,

thank You for sending Jesus to this world.

We're thankful for the light He brings to our lives--the hope, joy, love, and peace He brings us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Advent Prayer

My loving Jesus,
I choose You, this Advent,
as my King and my God.

Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins
so that I can change the things that You want me to change.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent
so that I may do all that God wants me to do.

Amen.





THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. John 1:6-7

A number of words have been removed from each sentence and listed below the sentence. Use the listed words to fill the blanks in the sentence.

In the beginning _____ the Word, and the Word _____ with God and the _____ was God.

A. was B. Word C. was

He was _____ God _____ beginning.

A. in B. with C. the

Through him all things were made; without _____ nothing was _____ that _____ been made.

A. made B. him C. has

In him was life, and _____ life _____ the _____ of all mankind.

A. light B. was C. that

The light shines in _____ darkness, and the _____ has _____ overcome it.

A. the B. not C. darkness

There was _____ sent from God whose name _____ John.

A. was B. a C. man

He came as a _____ testify concerning that light, so that all might _____.

A. believe B. to C. witness

He was not _____ light; he came only as a _____ to _____ light.

A. the B. the C. witness



Third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete Sunday

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

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





Time to Think!

Christmas 2023

I recently heard a funny little story of a mother who complained one day to her own mother that it was getting harder and harder to get her teen-aged sons and daughters to write a thank you note for the gifts that they receive at Christmas. The grandmother told her daughter not to worry about it, she would take care of it. Well Christmas arrived and all of the teens did not just write a note but they stopped by their grandmother's house within a week of Christmas to say thank-you. Their mother was incredulous and called her mother to find out how she, in her grandmotherly wisdom, was able to accomplish something at which she had been so unsuccessful. "It was easy," said the grandmother, "I sent each of them a card with a cheque in it, but I did not bother signing the cheque."

Christmas is all about gratitude. It is a celebration of God's gratuitous love. God so loved the world that he became one of us. Presence is a powerful gift. Being present, allows others to know they are not alone. Together we are always stronger. The birth of Jesus immediately brought others to his presence. Outsiders, those who lived on the periphery, were brought into the heart of God's presence in Bethlehem. The Holy Land, this Christmas, is a place of horrendous conflict and war. Images of babies being brutally murdered in Gaza, confronts us with a living horror story. Perhaps in 2023, Jesus birth, would take place under the rubble of war-torn streets in the Holy Land. I pray, that the hearts of those fuelled by hatred will be softened to negotiation and ceasefire. Let's remember this Christmas, volunteers and peacekeepers who heroically offer frontline support to victims of such violence and war.

Christmas can often exaggerate our vulnerabilities. Many find this time of year difficult and lonely. Let's try and be more present to those in our community and families who would appreciate a visit. I notice huge numbers attend the graves of loved ones gone before them, especially on Christmas morning. I pray that those who have gone before us, will truly be part of that Heavenly chorus, who rejoices in God's eternal presence.

Christmas is best experienced through the innocence and wonder and awe of little children. Jesus was born in a stable because there was no



room for him in the inn. 2023, has witnessed, further escalation in the number of homeless people here in Ireland, especially the number of homeless children. The Christmas story challenges attitudes such as xenophobia. The Christ child was a refugee, who sought shelter in order to survive. The Irish people have expressed enormous generosity to those who have come seeking refuge and new beginning. In challenging times regarding accommodation, our heritage is deeply rooted in the context of emigration. The Irish diaspora throughout the world, reminds me, that in all our families we have relations who once had to leave our island seeking new beginning and opportunity.

Perhaps our greatest gift we have is that of our health of body and peace of mind. A recent visit to a little baby, very unwell, in Crumlin hospital, reminded me, that many parents are deeply anxious about their sick child. I pray for all who long for the gift of health and peace of mind. I pray blessing for all who will work on the front line throughout the Christmas. Christmas is celebrated during the winter solstice, darkness is once again defeated by the light that will bring the new spring. In our winter gardens, heroic green shoots of hope erupt from the winter soil. Patrick Kavanagh, once prayed, "Christ will come in his January flower".

May the birth of Jesus Christ yet again bring a sense of rejuvenation to all our lives, may we be open, to God's presence that, heals, transforms and uplifts, a presence, that is full of empathy, a love that accepts each one of us as we find ourselves to be. God does not live just in holy places but is truly present in the wholesome lives of all his people. May you all be blessed with a healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,350 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



PORTLAOISE PARISH
Christmas Arrangements 2023



CHRISTMAS NOVENA
MONDAY 18th TO SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER
Mass at 7am

PARISH CAROL SERVICE
Wednesday 20th December - Parish Church 7.30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENITENTIAL SERVICE)
Monday 18th December - Parish Church 7.30pm

CONFESSIONS
Friday 22nd December - Parish Church after 10am Mass to 1pm & 6pm to 7pm
Saturday 23rd December - Parish Church after 10am Mass to 1pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 24th DECEMBER
Parish Church 6.30pm (Vigil) 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm
The Heath 9.30am Ratheniska 10am

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES
Portlaoise Parish Church Children's Mass 4pm
(mainly aimed at those who have not yet received 1st Holy Communion)
& another Children's Mass 6pm
Parish Church Midnight Mass 9pm
Parish Church Polish Mass 10.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES
Parish Church 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm
The Heath 9.30am Ratheniska 10am

TUESDAY 26th DECEMBER TO SATURDAY 30th DECEMBER
Parish Church 10am

SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER
Parish Church 6.30pm (Vigil Mass on Sat.), 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm
The Heath 9.30am Ratheniska 10am

MONDAY 1st JANUARY (MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD)
Parish Church 10am

TUESDAY 2nd JANUARY to FRIDAY 5th JANUARY
Parish Church 10am
Parish Church Polish Mass 2pm

SATURDAY 6th JANUARY (THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)
Parish Church 7.30pm (Vigil Mass on Friday), 8.30am, 10am & 12.30pm
The Heath: 9.30am Ratheniska: 10am

MASSES WILL RESUME AS NORMAL FROM MONDAY 8th JANUARY

Waiting in Hope Longing for Peace

An Advent bulletin for home and Parish
Week Three and Four 2023



Rejoice Sunday & Bambinelli

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally referred to as Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday. The rose coloured candle we light this day represents this joy, which is echoed in the Entrance Antiphon

of the Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.'

St John Paul II began a tradition in Rome that continues today. On this Sunday, children and their families from across Rome come to St Peter's Square, bringing with them the figure of the infant Jesus from their crib. After the Angelus, the children raise up the figures and the Pope blesses them. The day is now also known affectionally as **Bambinelli Sunday**, the Italian for babies. In many places the blessed figure is wrapped and placed under the family Christmas tree to be unwrapped and finally placed in the crib at Christmas – reminding us of the first and most important gift of Christmas!

Keeping Christmas 2023 in the Home and Parish - a Family Prayer Companion

A four-page leaflet for the home is now available on the Advent Resource page of www.kandle.ie It contains some prayers for the 12 days of Christmas, including:

- + Christmas Eve: Prayer for placing figure of Jesus in the crib
- + Christmas Day: Prayer before your Family Christmas Meal
- + A Prayer at the Crib for the 12 days of Christmas
- + Feast of the Holy Family: A Family Prayer
- + Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1): Prayer suggestion
- + Epiphany (January 6): Prayer for chalking your front door and placing Magi at the crib.



An Advent Tradition The Nativity Scene

In Advent 2019 Pope Francis once more encouraged families to have a nativity scene or crib in the home. He said that it '... helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethleher When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things.'



A Blessing Prayer by the Family Crib

God of all people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have shown us your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice,
mercy, and love.
Lord, bless our family and all who will look
upon this crib in the coming days;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and lift our thoughts to Him,
who is God-with-us, our Emmanuel and
the Saviour of all. Amen.

Advent Scripture Study Video Series

If you haven't had a chance to yet, make sure you take a look at this video series from Fr Seán Maher on the Balyna Parish YouTube channel.

ADVENT GOSPEL LINK

3rd Sunday of Advent: The figure of John the Baptist once more takes centre stage in our Gospel reading, though this time the account comes from John 1:6-8,19-28, rather than Mark's gospel. While he may be centre stage, John is once more pointing firmly to Christ as our saviour. In this passage he highlights an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst and to follow the example of John the Baptist by pointing others to the good news of Jesus. *How am I in my words and actions spreading the Advent message of hope in Jesus? What acts of kindness, patience and generosity can I share with others as I prepare for Christmas?*



4th Sunday of Advent: Because Mark's gospel doesn't start until the baptism of the adult Jesus, today we hear the account of the Annunciation from the gospel of Luke.

As we prepare to welcome Christ, we might embrace a few phrases from this gospel passage. The angel, a messenger from God, says to Mary and is saying to us today: 'The Lord is with you', 'Do not be afraid', 'Nothing is impossible to God'.

At this Christmas time, can we respond to God's message to us and be the person God has created us to be - a person wonderfully made. Can we, like Mary, say to God: 'Let what you have said be done to me.'

See www.kandle.ie for our weekly Scripture Sharing Reflections on the Advent Sunday readings.



An Advent hymn to think about...

O Come, Divine Messiah

The composer of this Advent carol was the French poet and playwright, Simon-Joseph Pellegrin (1663 – 1745). While there is a strong sense of petition in this hymn, its musical setting conveys an overriding confidence in God. Drawing on texts from Matthew, Luke, Isaiah and Psalm 62, the hymn proclaims that our Saviour will come - in peace and in meekness, in human weakness, dispelling the darkness and sadness of this world as hope sings its triumph.

Always
remember...



An Advent Tradition Reconciliation: Celebrating God's Forgiveness



An important aspect of preparing for Christmas for many people is the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation or confession. The honest assessment of our lives that Advent calls for will, invariably, lead us to seek God's forgiveness, mercy, and love. As we draw closer to Christmas take some time to consider: *What in your life would you like to change? From whom do you need to share or seek forgiveness? For what do you want to say sorry to God?*

Look out for the schedule of communal celebrations of reconciliation /penance and individual confession in your parish.

An Advent Household Prayer

We invite you take a moment to light your Advent wreath /candle, to thank God for your Advent Day & to pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family, praying for peace in our world & lives.

Loving God,
as your light grows in the dark of winter,
bring its strength and its hope
to the people of the Holy Land and to all people
who suffer through war and conflict.
Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem
to lead the way to your Son,
guide all people - leaders and citizens
to follow your ways of peace and justice.
As we remember the difficult journey of Mary
and Joseph, may the Holy Family be a source of
courage for each of us,
helping us to reach out in friendship
to the oppressed and displaced of this world.
Help us to see in the Christ-child we welcome this
Christmas, the one who came to bring an end to
all divisions. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
And may the Lord bless us and keep us safe
this Advent day and always. Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.



Christmas Preparation Masses

Join us at 7am from the 18th-23rd of December
as we celebrate Mass by Candlelight.

This way of celebrating Mass is an old Advent practice called a
Rorate Mass.

It helps us to focus our thoughts on the coming of the light of the world,
Jesus Christ.



Portlaoise
PARISH

Portlaoise Parish Carol Service

O Come let us Adore



**Join us, Wednesday 20th December, 7.30pm
In St. Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise**

**Available live on the Parish Webcam, Radio
and Shalom World TV.**



End of Year Rosary at The Grotto **New Years Eve, December 31st at 8pm**



BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

Have a Blessed Candle lit and displayed at the grotto for the sick, deceased, your intentions or in thanks giving. Your Candle will be lit from 5pm on Dec. 31st until after midnight. (Rosary at 8pm).

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

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

Mary Byrne	086-3653168
Paddy Connolly	087-2117174
John Egan	087-1254841
Kitty Timmons	087-9506634
Jimmy Shiels	087-6872633

A Mass will also be offered for your intentions in Portlaoise and Medjugorje.



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PARISH

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NOW AVAILABLE

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Full Year (51 Draws)

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**Other Lotto voucher
denominations also available.**

FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE

**You may also join the parish lotto online at
www.portlaoiseparish.ie**

I Missa em Português em Laois

A Comunidade Católica em Laois convida para a
Primeira Missa em português.

Dia 17/12/2023 - Domingo

Horário: 16h

Local: St Peter & Paul's Catholic
Church, Portlaoise - R32R684

Ação Social: Ofertório na missa com itens para doações à SVP -
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul/Laois.
Apoio: LABRAS.



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- Diaries and Calendars
- Bibles and Books
- Christmas Mass Bouquets €3

Christmas Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Saturdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd Dec. 10am-1pm



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



**Elizabeth (Lily)
McEvoy**
Kilminchy, Portlaoise



**Teresa (Teasie)
O'Beirne née Fenlon**
The Square, Ballinakill

*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



Rejoice Always

**In Loving Memory of
FRANCES REDDIN**

4 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 28th December 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 23rd December at 6.30pm

*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, Unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.*

Sadly missed by all her loving family.
Rest in Peace Frances

**In Loving Memory of
RORY CULLITON**

Glenlahan, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 23rd December 2023



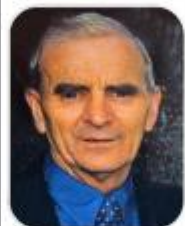
*Will those who think of Rory today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.*

*Greatly missed, loved and
remembered by his loving family.*

Rest in Peace Rory

**In Loving Memory of
JIMMY & GERTIE RANKIN**

1 Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.
Whose 22nd and 28th Anniversaries (respectively) occur.



*Never more than a
thought away, and
those who have loved
you dearly are thinking
of you today.*



Sadly missed and always remembered by their loving family.

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARY PATRICIA LALOR
née Breen**

Boley, Abbeyleix.
4th Anniversary occurred 15th December 2023.



4th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, this Sunday
17th December at 12 noon.

*We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives,
Until we meet again,
So rest in peace dear loved one,
And thanks for all you've done,
We pray that God has given you,
The crown you've truly won.*

Forever in our hearts, love Donal and family xx
Rest in Peace Patty

**In Loving Memory of
SHARON CREAN**

1st Anniversary away from home

*My heart still aches in sadness,
And secret tears will flow,
What it meant to lose you no one will
ever know.*

Loved and remembered by your brother Nigel, friend
Leanne, nephews Thomas, Leo and Calvin and your
loving mother Catherine xxx

Rest in Peace Sharon



**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL LEECH**

Ridge Rd. Portlaoise and formerly Kellystown, Wolfhill.
6th Anniversary occurs 26th December 2023

*Til the shadows lengthen,
And the evening comes,
And the busy world is hushed,
And the fever of life is over and
our work is done.*

*Then in His mercy,
May He give us a safe lodging and holy rest and
peace at the last.*

*With much love, Anne, Elizabeth, Colette,
Geraldine, Michelle and families.*

Michael's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St. Mary's Church, Wolfhill, on
Sunday 31st December at 10am.

May Michael Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
COTTIE KENNEDY (née Deegan)**

Kylebrook, Portlaoise.
First Anniversary occurs at this time.



Fondly remembered and missed by her family and friends.

Rest in Peace Cottie

2nd ANNIVERSARY

*Of A Loving Husband, Father,
Grandfather and Great-Grandfather
In Loving Memory of*

JOHN-JOE CONROY

Carrick Hill, Portlaoise. Died 24th December 2021

*A silent grief that's in our
hearts, no human eye can trace,
For many a broken heart is hid,
Beneath a smiling face.*

*Sadly missed by Rose and all
his loving family.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Saturday 23rd December at 6:30pm.

Rest in Peace John-Joe



**BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS
REMEMBRANCE**

**For a very special Mother and Father
MARIA & OLIVER McDONALD**

10 Beladd, Stradbally Rd., Portlaoise.
Maria's 4th Birthday and Christmas away from Home
Oliver's 2nd Christmas away from Home.

*Missing you Always
Especially at
Christmas time*

*With all the celebrations
and Christmas drawing
near, what a lovely time
we'd have if only you
were near.*



*We'd spend so many happy hours, the way we did before,
Christmas is for loved ones, and I couldn't miss you more.
When I wake on Christmas Day, I'll look to Heaven above,
And I'll remember every smile and think of you with love.*

*Sadly missed by their sons Lee and Cody, daughters
Sharon, Margaret, Sierra and Jan, sister Angela and
their friend Kathleen, grandchildren and sons-in-law.*

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
EDWARD CARROLL**

Knockmay Estate and late of Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
43rd Anniversary occurs at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 17th December at 12.30pm.

Also Pray For

PADDY & MARY DEMPSEY

The Heath. Anniversary occurs at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the
Assumption, the Heath, this **Sunday 17th December** at
9.30am and in Portlaoise Parish Church at 12.30pm.

May They Rest in Peace



*You are the
Light
of the World*



**In Loving Memory of
DES BROWNE**

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 19th December 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Tuesday 19th December at 10am.

*I am that little Robin that sits upon a tree,
I sing to you each morning,
But you don't know its me,*

*I am that little Robin in your garden every day,
I will never leave you, I will never fly away.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by his wife & family.

May Des Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
TOM SCULLY**

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
Tuesday 26th December at 10am.

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

Sadly missed by
your loving wife Brenda, daughter
Kathryn, sons Brian, Philip and Tommy, son-in-law
John, daughters-in-law Jackie, Gemma and Niamh,
grandchildren Ryan, Charlie, Faye, Ruby and Sadie
and extended family.

Rest in Peace Tom

**In Loving Memory of
PADDY CROSSAN**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 18th December 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 17th December at 11.15am.

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by Padraig, Michael & family,
Kieran & family.*

Rest in Peace Paddy

**In Loving Memory of
JAMES EGAN**

New Road, Portlaoise.

40th Anniversary occurs 21st December 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.*

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

Rest in Peace James

**In Loving Memory of
PAT DRENNAN**

59 The Green, Kilminchy.

2nd Anniversary occurs 16th December 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Holy Cross
Church, Ratheniska, at 10am
on Sunday 17th December.

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

*You filled our lives with joy and
pleasure,*

*You were to us a precious treasure.
A little while shall pass and then,
We'll see each other once again.
Loved, remembered and held so dear,
In minds and hearts you're always here.*

*Sadly missed and forever loved by his loving wife Ann,
brother Arty and sister Betty, brothers-in-law and
sisters-in-law.*

Rest in Peace Pat

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN FITZPATRICK**

3 Ashton Manor, Portlaoise, formerly Meelick.

4th Anniversary occurs 19th December 2023.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this Sunday 17th December at 10am.



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

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

May John Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
FIONA CONROY**

*Kilteale Avenue, Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary occurs at this time.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 23rd December at 6:30pm.



Loving Memories of you Fiona,
we will never forget,
Sadly missed along life's way, with
silent thought and deep regret,
We think of you every day,
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts you're
always there.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your
loving daughter Isabel and Pascal, your
Mother Mary and family.*

Rest in Peace Fiona

**In Loving Memory of
MONICA MULDOWNEY**

*Togher, Portlaoise
4th Anniversary occurred 15th December 2023*



The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon
you,
To shine upon you and be gracious
unto you,
The Lord lift up the light of his
countenance upon you,
And give you peace. Amen.

*Loved and remembered always by Bernadette, Columba,
Aidan, Gerard and their families and all the extended family.*

Rest in Peace Monica

**In Loving Memory of
KEVIN KEOGH**

*6 Park View, Portlaoise.
Died 17th December 2010 (13th Anniversary)*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
**this Saturday 16th December
at 6.30pm.**

*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.*

*Always loved, never forgotten by your loving
mum and family xxx*

Rest in Peace Kevin

**In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH DUFF**

*Beladd, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurs 25th December 2023.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 17th December at 10am.

*Those who mean the most to us,
Are never really gone,
For in our thoughts and in our hearts,
Their memory lives on.*

*Sadly missed by your sister Margaret,
brother Eddie and family.*

Rest in Peace Joe

**In Loving Memory of
PHYLLIS LALOR**

*Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 20th December 2023*



Mam;
*A daily thought, a silent tear,
A constant wish that you were here.
Love and miss you everyday Mam,
Gerard x*

Mam;
*A smile for all, a heart of gold,
The very best this world could hold,
Never selfish, always kind,
These are the memories you left behind.
Call Mammy's name out softly Lord,
And when she looks your way,
Tell her that we love her and miss her everyday.
Love and miss you beyond words,
Marie & Christy xx*

Nan;
*No special time is needed for us to think of you,
For you were someone special and we thought the
world of you.
Missing you everyday Nan, love from your two
special boys, Kyle and Finn xx*

Mam/Nanny;
*A loving Mother and Nan so true,
No one on earth we'll find like you,
For us you always did your best,
God grant your soul eternal rest.
Sadly missed, loved everyday, Daithí, Mags,
Shauna, Oisín and Cillian xxxxx*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Saturday 16th December at 6.30pm.

Rest in Peace Phyllis

*In Loving Memory of
MARIE KILMARTIN*



*30 years ago gone this week
More sinned against than sinned
May She Rest in Justice and Peace*

† KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS †

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PLEASE CONTACT:

James: 086 2572224 sales: 087 4899798

james@mckeonmemorials.ie sales@mckeonmemorials.ie

www.mckeonmemorials.ie

HENRY RANKIN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

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



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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
14th December 2023



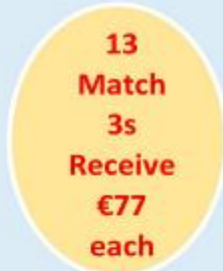
One €18,000 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Eithne & Richard O'Hara, Lotto Gift

WINNERS

Tim Fitzpatrick
Ciara & Bernard Ging
Mary Dunne
Lysagh Redmond
Tricia Lewis
Billy Martley
Colette Fingleton
Mary Byrne
Conor O'Brien Snr
Jack Croke
P J Murphy
Eddie Phelan
Anthony Kirwan

MATCH 3s €1,000



Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

PROMOTER

Online Lotto
Mary Gowing
Mary Dunne
Lucy Kelly
Lotto Gift
Martley's Shop
Betty Lynch
Lily Moore
Lisa O'Brien
John Loughlin
Bernie Phelan
Eddie Phelan
M Farrell

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish **& Like Us** [portlaoiseparishlaois](https://www.facebook.com/portlaoiseparishlaois)

Next Week's Jackpot is €10,000



At next Thursday's Lotto Draw there will be an additional draw for 10 Promoter's Prizes of €100. Based on this week's draw, promoters will have one ticket in the drum for each ticket promoted including their regular players.

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. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can 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: @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



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