

Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**

**link
up**

30th June 2024

Presentation Sisters celebrate 200 years in Portlaoise

On July 3rd, 1824, three courageous Presentation Sisters embarked on a journey from Carlow to Portlaoise, laying the foundation for what would become a beacon of education and service in the community. Their mission: to teach the children of Portlaoise, has flourished over the past two centuries, touching the lives of thousands of young girls and boys. On the 200th anniversary - next Wednesday - our 10am Mass will be one of thanksgiving commemorating this event.

All are welcome
See also back cover

Venerable Nano Nagle, Ballygriffin, Co. Cork
1718-1784

Foundress of the Presentation Sisters

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

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St. Oliver Plunkett 1st July

Oliver Plunkett, from an Irish nobility whose family supported King Charles I. Ordained in Rome in 1654 he became a professor of theology from 1654 until appointed Archbishop of Armagh in 1669. He ministered in Armagh, through forced to work in a covert way during the suppression of priests. He was arrested and tried at Dundalk in 1679 for conspiring against the state. It was seen that Oliver would never be convicted in Ireland, and he was moved to Newgate prison, London. He was found guilty of high treason 'for promoting the Catholic faith', and was condemned to a gruesome death. He was hanged, drawn and quartered on 1 July 1681 at Tyburn, in London. He was the last Catholic to die for his faith at Tyburn, and the first of the Irish martyrs to be beatified in 1920. He was canonised by Pope Paul VI on 12 October 1975. He is buried at Downside Abbey, England; his head is venerated in St. Peter's Church, Drogheda.



Peter's Pence Collection takes place today (Sunday)

The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters. Envelopes in Development Boxes.

Thank you for your support.

*Do not be afraid;
only have faith*

Mark 5:36

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

Monday - Thursday: 7.30am & 10am

Friday (First Friday): 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm.

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 6.30pm Mass.

Communion Calls

The priests of the parish will attend their communion rounds during the week.



St Thomas the Apostle 3rd July

'Doubting Thomas' shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the "sons of thunder," Philip and his foolish request to see the Father — in fact all the apostles in their flaws and lack of understanding. However we mustn't dwell too much on these facts, for Jesus chose his disciples because he could see their worth despite their weakness. We are shown that God chooses ordinary men and women just like us to do his work.

Bitesize

Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.

Edwin Hubbel Chapin



We welcome into our Parish Community

Tom Gerard Everard,
Ashley Gardens

Mícheál Óg William Dwyer,
The Hermitage

Who were baptised last weekend.

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Thurs: 9:00am -6:30pm

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Fri: 8:50am -5:20pm

Wed: 9:00am -5.30pm

Thanks as always for your support

Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic



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CHARITY CYCLE FOR THE HOMELESS

Gear up for a meaningful ride and make a difference in the lives of the homeless community! Join us for a charity cycle event aimed at raising awareness and funds to support those in need. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or a casual rider, everyone is welcome to participate in this heartwarming cause.



Portlaoise Action
To Homelessness



SATURDAY, JULY 27TH
PORTLAOISE PLAZA JUNCTION 17
CHECK IN FROM 8AM
100KM STARTS AT 9:00AM
53KM STARTS AT 9:15AM

SUPPORTED BY:
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PORTLAOISE PLAZA JUNCTION 17 TOUGHER PORTLAOISE

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**100
KM
ROUTE!**



**53KM
ROUTE!**



HELMETS MUST BE WORN FOR ALL EVENTS!



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ALL PROCEEDS TO P.A.T.H FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE HOMELESS!!

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Clothes line poles, Rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, saw horses, bicycle stands.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Monday, June 24th:

Top Score: Tied; Sheila Duff & Paraic Dowling | **1st Lady:** Molly O'Brien | **2nd Lady:** Tied; Ann Dunne, Paula McEvoy & Cissie Collier | **1st Gent:** Sean Carroll | **2nd Gent:** Judith Booth | **1st Half:** Tied; W. Carroll | **2nd Half:** Paul Kavanagh
Raffle: 1st Maureen Fitzpatrick, 2nd Niamh Stackpool, 3rd Kathleen Kennedy, 4th Ann Farrell, 5th Maureen Fitzpatrick, 6th Paula McEvoy, 7th Jemma McCormack, 8th Liam McCarthney.

Whist continues every Tuesday evening in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm, new players welcome. Lessons available, please leave your name and number at Parish Centre reception.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, June 25th:

Top Score: Catherine Galvin | **1st Lady:** Kathleen Kennedy | **2nd Lady:** Kit Farrell | **1st Gent:** Liam McCartney
2nd Gent: Sheila Duff | **1st Half:** Maureen Fitzpatrick | **2nd Half:** Tom Jacob & T Mulhare

Raffle: 1st Mary Dunne, 2nd Mary Delaney, 3rd Molly O'Brien, 4th Mary Browne.

Whist continues every Tuesday evening in the Parish Centre at 7:30pm, new players welcome.

Graiguecullen MONSTER Bingo, Tuesday 2nd July in St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm; Jackpot on 47 numbers €1,610. Double number €1,580. Lotto €1,550.

Ring Found in Holy Family Senior School, Aghnaharna on Friday 7th June (Voting Day). Contact the Parish Centre.

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).

Vocations Society of St. Joseph; Holy Hour, Adoration, Prayer for vocations, 3pm every Friday in the Parish Church.

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee; A box has been placed under Our Lady's Statue in the Parish Church and will remain there until 11th July for anyone wishing to have a petition taken to Lourdes by the Portlaoise Parish Committee. Please do not include money in the envelopes as they are burned unopened. If anyone would like a deceased family member included in our Masses in Lourdes, please place your list in, and mark it appropriately and we will have the names included in our deceased book. If you wish to have a Mass Bouquet from Lourdes for a living relative included in our Masses these can be purchased from any committee member prior to travelling.

Rosary at the Grotto for the first Friday, 5th July, 8pm, all are welcome to join with us in prayer.

Day of Prayer at Emmanuel House, Clonfert led by Eddie Stones and Team, Saturday 6th July, 11am to 5pm; Talks, music, confessions, 1st Saturday Fatima Devotions, Healing Service and Holy Mass, blessing with the First Class Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis which will visit Emmanuel House on the day. Please bring a packed lunch, tea/coffee provided.

Rally for Life; You are invited to the Rally for Life, the biggest pro-life event of the year, where thousands Stand for Life and to protect mother and baby. JULY 6th, PARNELL SQ, Dublin 1.30pm. This year's Rally will hear from special speaker, KAYA JONES, former singer with famed band The Pussycat Dolls. Join us to call for urgent change to Ireland's shocking abortion rate.



Pictured Above: 6th Class Graduation Mass, Ratheniska N.S., celebrated at Oughaval Mass Rock, Monday 24th June. Celebrant; Fr. Adriano.

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MAT PILATES

New Pilates Classes starting in Portlaoise in Team Ryano - R32K237 on 16th July (free trial class)

Suitable for beginners, all ages and individual abilities welcome.

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SPIRITUALITY DAY IN CLUAIN MUIRE ATHY

Organised by
The Pioneer Leinster Activity Committee

Sunday 7th July

Starting at 10.30am

Anyone interested in attending please contact Eileen on 086-1664471.

Lunch available to purchase.

Donations on the day to Cluain Mhuire.



KEYS FOUND

In Mulhall's carpark on Thursday 27th June. Contact the linkup office.

Relay for Life Laois 2024

At Relay for Life communities come together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember those we have lost from cancer and to fight back against this disease, raising awareness about cancer and raising funds for the Irish Cancer Society by purchasing a Candle Bag for €5, which is decorated with a name, a message, or a picture inspired by the special person you are thinking of. All money raised in Laois for this event will stay in Laois! If you would like to walk, you can walk around the candle path for as little or long as you would like. No sign-up required unless you would like to have a team. For info. call;

Caroline 087-4499903 | Martina 086-1079438 | Anna 085-2899234 | Fran 087-9161924





There Is Power in a Touch

As you probably know, we have five senses. We use these five senses to give us information about the world around us. For example, if I were to hold up a ball and ask you what it was, you would identify it by using your sense of sight. If I were to ring a bell and ask you what it was, you would identify it was by using your sense of hearing. If I put a flower under your nose and ask you to tell me what it was, you would know what it was by its smell. If I gave you a sip of lemonade, you would know right away what it was because of its taste.



There is one of the five senses that I have not mentioned. Do you know what it is? It is the sense of touch.

The sense of touch is very important, isn't it? We can often tell what an object is by its size, shape, and texture -- all of which can be learned by using our sense of touch. This morning I want to tell you about a woman who experienced the power of Jesus -- just by touching him.

One day Jesus was walking through a large crowd of people. The people were crowding around so that he could hardly move. There was a woman in the crowd who had a very bad sore that had been bleeding for twelve years. She had been to many doctors, but none had been able to help her. She had heard about Jesus and she believed that he could heal her, but there were so many who were people crowded around him that it seemed hopeless.

The woman thought to herself, "If I could just get close enough to touch his robe, I would be healed." So she pushed through the crowd and reached out and touched Jesus' clothes. Her bleeding stopped immediately and her suffering was ended.

The Gospel tells us that as soon as the woman touched him, Jesus felt the power go out of him. He turned to the woman and said, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your suffering."

Won't you reach out to Jesus today? If you will, you too can feel his power in your life today.



My Prayer

Dear Jesus, we long to reach out and touch you
and to feel your power in our life.
Amen.



There's Power in a Touch

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

And a _____ was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many _____ and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew _____. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his _____, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be _____." Immediately her _____ stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her _____.

At once Jesus realised that _____ had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who _____ me?'"

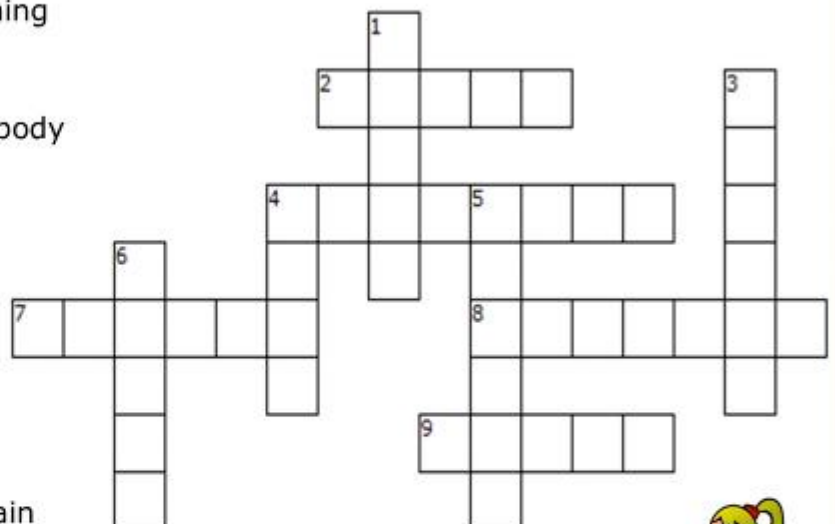


But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your _____ has healed you."

worse	cloak	woman	suffering	doctors
power	bleeding	healed	touched	faith

ACROSS

2. To put the fingers lightly on something
4. Losing blood from a cut or a sore
7. To be cured or restored to health
8. The things you wear to cover your body
9. A human adult female



Down

1. Physical strength or force
3. To experience physical or mental pain
4. The main, physical part of a person
5. A person who treats people who are sick or injured
6. To believe in something you cannot see



FAITH	BLEEDING	SUFFER	BODY	WOMAN
DOCTOR	HEALED	CLOTHES	TORCH	POWER



Time to Think!

A Fiery Sermon

As we begin the month of July, I pray in the brightness of summer all our families will be blessed with health of body and peace of mind. July traditionally is also a month when many take the opportunity for rest and renewal. I think especially of our school communities taking their well-deserved summer holidays and pray protection and safety on the journeys we may take.

One of the huge challenges in a contemporary culture is how to connect with one another and build our sense of community. In an age of instant social media, it is no substitute for the personal encounter. A recent psychological study on well-being placed huge emphasis on the benefits of gathering together including attending Church services. Since the dreadful COVID pandemic, there has been a noticeable absence of many good people who now have become accustomed to engaging with local Parish via the webcam exclusively. Whilst the webcam in our local Parish is a very useful vehicle to communicate, it is no substitute for the physical connection that is gathering around the table of the Lord. I think of the following story because it is very relevant to our present context.

"A member of a Catholic Parish, who previously had attended daily Mass, suddenly stopped going, not only on weekdays, but on Sundays also. The Parish Priest noticed this and was worried about it. He decided to pay the man a visit but felt unsure about what to do or say. He was conscious of the need to respect the man's freedom, but conscious also that he should be there to help him if he needed it. After a few weeks, on a cold winter's evening, the priest visited him. He found the man alone at home and was welcomed by him into the warmth of the house. The man led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace, where a blazing coal fire was burning, and waited.

The priest sat down and made himself at home but said nothing about the man's absence from Mass. The two men chatted about ordinary day-to-day affairs, a simple conversation about the news and topics of the day. From time to time, they became silent, their attention drawn to the dance of the flames around the burning coals. After a while, the priest took the tongs, carefully picked a burning coal from the fire and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in the chair in silence. His host watched this quietly. As the lone coal flickered and diminished, there was a reduced glow for some time, and then its fire was no more. It had become cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken about the question that was on both men's minds.



After some further conversation, the priest picked up the dead coal and put it back in the middle of the fire. Soon it began to glow once more with the heat of the burning coals around it. It burned brightly, giving light as well as warmth. Then the priest glanced at his watch and said it was time for him to leave. He stood up to go. As he reached the front door of the house, his host, with a smile on his face, said, 'Thanks for your visit, and especially for the fiery sermon. I'll be back at Mass next Sunday'."

We live in a society that is increasingly individualised and atomised. More people live lives that are fragmented and lonely. Some live in "secure" apartment blocks accessible only by cards or codes. They seem like prisons. It's not a healthy way to be. The lone ranger is a poor role model for humanity. We need each other. It takes courage, and sometimes imagination, to break out of the limits, sometimes self-imposed, that keep us in isolation. But it's worth the effort, and necessary if we are to be the human beings that God calls us to be.

"Come Summer With Me"

Come summer with me, Lord;
Summer deep down in my soul;
Restore my faith in summer's time,
In rest, in joy, in play, in you...
Summer in my heart, Lord, and dwell there
As if time would never end,
As if all time were children's time, eternal time
When school is always out and joy is ever in...
And let others summer in my shade, Lord,
And share whatever summer's peace is mine to give,
Whatever summer's light is mine to shed,
Whatever summer's warmth is mine to share...
Good God of every season and every day this week,
Come summer with me, Lord,
And let the child in my heart spend this summer in
your love. Amen.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 32,625 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

Caroline DWANE STANLEY



WORKING HARD FOR YOU

Thank you sincerely
to all those who have supported me.
I commit to working tirelessly for you
over the next 5 years.

Caroline



CLLR. TOMMY MULLIGAN

YOUR INDEPENDENT FOR
PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**A sincere thank
you for all your
support and
for electing me in
the recent local
election**

**NEW VOICE
NEW VISION**



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



Bernie Keegan
née Conroy
Main Street, Portlaoise



Patrick (Pat) Scully
Ballyhyland, Portlaoise



Victor William Whyte
Cape Town, South Africa
and formerly
Stradbrook, Portlaoise



Nora Lalor
née McNamara
Coole, Raheen

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
Msr. CAOIMHÍN (Kevin)
O'Neill

Ballyroan Road, Abbyleix/Mountrath/Carlow
1st Anniversary occurs 29th June 2024



"Death is nothing else but going home to God, the bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity"
- Mother Teresa

Thoughts and prayers from all his family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis

In Loving Memory of
OLIVER BARTLEY

91 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
9th Anniversary occurs 27th June 2024



Dad, I miss you everyday,
You were so precious and unique, a guiding light throughout my life,
You were my strength when I was weak.

Happy memories flood my mind whenever I think of you, but you can never be replaced, that much is sadly true.

The fact that you're no longer here still fills my heart with pain, I wish I had just one last chance to talk with you again.

I shall always remember the closeness we had,
I love you and miss you so much,
My kind and thoughtful Dad.

Sadly missed, loved and forever remembered by his daughter Monalisa, son-in-law Donal and grandchildren Darryl and Stefan.

No special time is needed for us to think of you, To us you were someone special and we thought the world of you,

Your memory is our greatest treasure,
To have, to love, and keep forever,
Time slips by, life goes on, but in our hearts you are never gone.

Loved and missed by his sons John, Oliver, Shay and Darren, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the Bartley family.

Oliver's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on
Saturday 29th June at 6:30pm in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church.

May Oliver Rest in Peace

MONTHS MIND REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

CATHERINE FARRELL née Paisley

2 Grallow Wood, Abbeyleix.

Formerly St. John's Square, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise, on
Sunday 7th July at 12.30pm.

*Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure,
You were loved beyond
words, and missed beyond
measure.*

*Sadly missed, loved and
remembered by
her husband Rob, son Sam, mother Rose, sister
Noelle and all her loving family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Catherine

No Tomorrows

Somewhere beyond the heavens
I know that's where you are.
I see you when the sun sets
You are that shining star,

When stormy days surround me
You're the rainbow that appears.
And the gently falling rain
I know they are your tears.

They'll be no more tomorrows
You're all my yesterdays.
But those memories we both made
Will stay with me always.



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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
27th June 2024



No €19,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

MATCH 3s €1,000

Michelle Dempsey
Pat Delaney
Seriously Cool Girl
Mary Breen
Anita and Denis
Eve Jordan
Hilary Gray
Eddie O'Brien
Chrissie Byrne
Bob Sythes
Carmel & Sean
Claire Morrissey
Liam Casey
Michael Farrell & Bernie Tynan
Sandra Moore
Mary Theresa Burke

**16
Match
3s
Receive
€63
each**

PROMOTER

Online Lotto
Mary Delaney
Julie Conroy
Chris Holohan
Anita Tierney
Rocky Kehoe
Rocky Kehoe
Evan Byrne
Parish Centre
Chris Lacey
Carmel Whelan
Marie Heavy
Paul Dooley
M Farrell
E Phelan
M.T. Burke

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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



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
9am - 5pm Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only Tel: 0852134285

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Ailish Higgins 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

Lana Lebedieva

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church and the Heath Church are live streamed on our website



Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm

057-8692154

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E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

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- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
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- * Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
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FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Presentation Sisters in Portlaoise celebrate 200 years

The Presentation Sisters are in Portlaoise since 1824. On July 3rd of that year, three sisters arrived from Carlow to set up house and school in Maryborough (as was the town's name then). They were sent by Bishop James Doyle (JKL) "to promote religious instruction and provide education for the poor of the town". Sisters Magdalen Breen, Angela Mooney and Chantal Wilmerding were the chosen three.

The Penal Laws prevented Catholics from receiving education or professing their religion. Nano Nagle had set up her Congregation in Cork in 1775 to overcome these problems. Gradually, schools and convents were established by the Presentation Sisters in many towns throughout the country. Carlow was founded in 1811 by the three sisters from Kilkenny. Later, with help from

Portlaoise, Kildare Convent was established in 1829. The Penal Laws were repealed in that year. By August 15th, 1824, there were 216 children in the school. The children were poor and the Sisters were poor. But, the people valued education and many sacrifices were made so that all children would have access to education. The original school-rooms were in a disused building and in coal-cellars of the church. Gradually, with generous donations from friends, families and some funding from the Government, the buildings and work of education progressed rapidly. Skilful management of funds and accounts enabled development through the years. Through famine times and onwards breakfasts were provided for the children. All of these schools were set up after the pattern of Nano Nagle's schools in Cork.

The foundation stone was laid for the new convent in Portlaoise in 1873.

What has happened in 200 years? Sacred Heart School opened in 1932, Scoil Mhuire in 1955 and Scoil Christí Rí in 1969. In 2016 Sacred Heart, Scoil Mhuire and St. Paul's amalgamated and are now called Holy Family Schools. All of the schools in the parish are now in State of the art new buildings. Today, we have approximately 5,000 children attending schools in our parish.



Boards of Management now take responsibility for the administration of all the schools. Since the foundation of the convent in Church Street, Sisters have also lived in Tower Hill, O'Moore Place, Beechfield, Knockmay and in Ashbrook Gardens.

Today, we celebrate the journey of the Presentation Sisters throughout 200 years with the people of Portlaoise and surrounding areas.

**Mass of celebration will take place in the
Parish Church at 10am on Wednesday (July 3rd).**

All are welcome.

