

Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

Over 5,000 attended a truly wonderful, sunny day at our cemetery mass last Sunday. Thank you to all who helped out, the cemetery committee, Louise Kavanagh and the 10am Choir, Readers, Ministers of the Eucharist, Sacristans, Order of Malta and An Garda Síochána. Your dedication and hard work made the day run smoothly and beautifully.



Drone image of our Cemetery Mass

The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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The Common Good

Today's gospel is particularly relevant in a climate of war and divisive politics. In today's gospel we find the people of Galilee

trying to decide who Jesus is and the claims are clearly becoming divisive. There is a bit of a controversy going on where some think that Jesus has 'Beelzebul in him'.... a name for Satan. The very idea seems alien to us since we have long since decided who Jesus is, but this was not the case for the people of the time who had observed Jesus performing all sorts of powerful signs and had to ask themselves where Jesus' power came from. Was Jesus' power from God or was it from the devil? We cannot blame them for asking this question.

Jesus deals with the controversy by giving us a lesson in the differences between the work of the devil and the work of God. The devil sets us up against each other in opposition. The devil tears down nations. The devil tears down households and families. The devil divides and scatters. God on the other hand helps us to work towards peace and unity. God forgives us our sins and encourages us to forgive each other and to work together. Jesus' work is not about division but about welcoming everyone to him whoever they might be. His power clearly does not flow from the devil.

So how can we apply this lesson two thousand years later? We open a newspaper or switch on the news. We watch our politicians and world leaders. We know that their job is to make the world a better place. We have to give them credit where they succeed but we have to be mindful of their shortcomings too. When leaders start to tear each other down and divide nations, we have to know that this is not God's will. God's will is to unify us so that we are working together towards a common good.

Today we need to look at the divisions in our world and ask how those divisions might be healed. Everyone on the planet is part of one human family. As Jesus says in today's gospel, "Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother."

'Here are my mother, my brothers and sisters. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother, sister and mother.'

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

Monday - Friday: 7.30am & 10am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am. Cemetery Mass at 1pm

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.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for June 2024

For migrants fleeing from war or hunger...

In the month of June, Pope Francis asks us to pray for people fleeing their own countries.



"The feeling of uprootedness or not knowing where they belong often accompanies the trauma experienced by people who are forced to flee their homeland because of war or poverty. What is more, in some destination countries, migrants are viewed as threats, with fear. Then the spectre of walls appears – walls on the earth separating families, and walls in hearts. Christians cannot share this vision. Whoever welcomes a migrant welcomes Christ.

We must promote a social and political culture that protects the rights and dignity of migrants, a culture that promotes the possibility that they can achieve their full potential, and integrates them. A migrant needs to be accompanied, promoted, and integrated. This month Pope Francis asks us to join in his monthly prayer intention, **"... that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities."**

Visit our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie



We welcome into our Parish Community

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Thanks as always for your support

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The Fatima Candle will be lit at
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Thursday 13th June 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.



Ray 085-2055198

Scoil an Fhraoich Mhoir
together we learn



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Portlaoise Active Retirement meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun and activities, new members always welcome.

Monday; Bowls in St. Marys Sports hall at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

Wednesday; Club in the Parish Centre at 3pm, going to Emo for a picnic and walk for anyone able, car pooling.

Thursday; Cards in Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

For further information please contact P.R.O. Sheila at 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, June 4th:

Top Score: Peter Stevenson | 1st Lady: Rita Arrigan | 2nd Lady: Theresa Mulhare | 1st Gent: Angela Brennan | 2nd Gent: Tom Gowing | 1st Half: Mary Gowing | 2nd Half: Frank Keenan | Raffle: 1st Bridie Kennedy, 2nd Molly O'Brien, 3rd Molly O'Brien, 4th Tom Dunne, 5th Mary J Dunne, 6th Mary J Dunne, 7th Mary Gowing, 8th Bridie Kennedy.

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.

Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 11th June in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm:

Jackpot on 44 numbers €1,220. Double number €1,370. Lotto €1,400.

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 and Prayer for vocations, every Friday at 3pm in the Parish Church.

Rosary at the Grotto at 8pm this Friday for the first Friday and Saturday 8th June for the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady.

Portlaoise Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima 13th-20th June

2024; Anyone looking to have their loved ones included in our daily Mass on our Pilgrimage, for deceased, sick or special intentions; Mass cards and Mass Bouquet cards available from Michael and Margaret Houlihan 087-9212028 or any member of the committee.

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee

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We Are Family

What is a family? One definition I found in the dictionary said a family is "A group consisting of parents and children living together in a household." That is, no doubt, one way to define a family, but a family can be much more than that, can't it? A family can be any group that is brought together by common interests, beliefs, and love for one another. One of the best examples of this kind of family is the Church. The Church is a family bound together by love for God, their Heavenly Father, and for one another.

In the gospel today, Jesus was together with his disciples in a house. When Jesus' mother and brothers arrived at the house, they sent someone inside to look for him. They told Jesus, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

Jesus looked around at the people seated around him and answered, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Did Jesus love his real mother and brothers? Of course he did, but he also realized that he had another family. It was a family made up of those who loved his Heavenly Father and wanted to do his will.

You and I love our families, but we also have a wonderful family of faith made up of brothers and sisters who love God and love one another. It is wonderful to be a part of "The Family of God."



When you love
what you have,
you have
everything
you need.



We Are Family

**"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother".
Mark 3:35 (NIV)**

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

6-1-13-9-12-25 _____

4-9-19-3-9-16-12-5-19 _____

8-15-21-19-5 _____

10-5-19-21-19 _____

2-18-15-20-8-5-18 _____

13-15-20-8-5-18 _____

19-9-19-20-5-18 _____

3-18-15-23-4 _____

FAMILY
BROTHER

DISCIPLES
MOTHER

HOUSE
SISTER

JESUS
CROWD



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*Saint Anthony of Padua
June 13th*

St. Anthony is always shown holding the child Jesus. He believed that Jesus worked through him. He preached the Good News and he told many people about God.





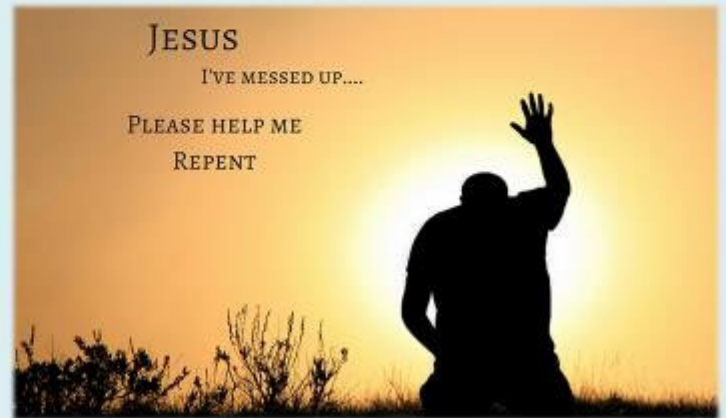
Time to Think!

God embraces Vulnerability

Thoughts and continued prayers for all students currently sitting state exams. I find it interesting, regarding people's recurrent dreams, top of the list are exams. Life at times can indeed be challenging and difficult. Throughout the scripture, there is a deep sensitivity to the vicissitudes of life. Spirituality and faith, offer comfort and consolation, particularly in times where vulnerability and a feeling of fragility may be our reality. Perhaps at our most vulnerable, God himself is at his closest. It was on the cross where Jesus felt abandoned and yet as God, deliberately embraced our wounds so that truly we may all be healed.

During the month of June, the church focuses with loving reverence on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This devotion stems in part to church approved private revelations our Lord gave St. Margaret Marie Alacoque, a French Nun in the 17th century, in which He made known to her His desire for us to show love and devotion to His Sacred Heart. For starters, God doesn't just love. He is love! (1 John 4:8). He sees each of our souls as if they were High-Definition images with nothing hidden. And He desires to love us just as intensely! Christ sees us in HD and loves us in HD! We can requite our love for Him through partaking of his graces in communion and confession, and through prayer, fasting, and following His commandments. If this sounds like too tall an order as you deal with life's daily struggles and difficulties, remember that you can always say a short prayer to God, even in your own words or just talk to Him as you would a friend. Tell Him you love Him. Ask for His help in doing His will. Express your gratitude for His blessings. Or tell Him about all your frustrations over everything going wrong in your life or in this crazy world! Mother Teresa once said that God did not call her to be successful, but rather faithful. That applies to all of us as well! The main thing is to keep in touch with Him and keep trying to live in His love!

There are a few lines in one of Eliot's Four Quartets, The Dry Salvages, where he refers to the edge between land and sea. "... The sea is all about us; the sea is the land's edge also, the granite into which it reaches, the beaches where it tosses its hints of earlier and other creation...". I have always been fascinated by the shoreline, this ever-changing definition between the land we walk on and the water which can be turbulent with winter storms or calm in a summers evening, water we can journey on and, now and then, enter to swim. It is the place where the detritus from the sea is washed on to the land, jumbled and broken, there to be picked over by seagulls or to be explored by the lone walker. Time and again, we find ourselves in a marginal space, where, swept by life's experience, we are tossed to the edge. Surety is lost as we find ourselves asking questions to which there appear to be no answers, this edge land within our experience. It can be a lonely place to inhabit. I remember once walking a shoreline between a vast expanse of sand dunes and open swathes of sand on the Northern coastline and the sea's edge, ever changing, and meeting no one for what seemed like ages.



Such a place can encourage prayer; it can also leave you with a sense of your own insignificance in the huge expanse of creation. Throughout the short passage of our passing our life in faith, there will be times like this, when being at the land's edge can be perilous and we seem like just another piece of driftwood tossed up by the sea, insecure and of little consequence. That can indeed be a lonely and painful experience. Renewal and reassurance come from the Spirit that is within us and from those we meet who are willing to put an arm of encouragement round our shoulder and walk a few steps with us. Henri Nouwen, a man of Spirit and great honesty, collected some fine pieces in his book "With open hands". He concludes one chapter with a short prayer. "Dear God, Speak gently in my silence. When the loud outer noises of my surroundings and the loud inner noises of my fears keep pulling me away from you, help me to trust that you are still there, even when I am unable to hear you. Give me ears to listen to your small, soft voice saying: 'Come to me, you who are overburdened, and I will give you rest...for I am gentle and humble of heart' Let your loving voice be my guide". He then poses a question "Why do I avoid silence?", a challenge that asks us to face up to our difficulties. Having just celebrated the feast of Pentecost may we be open to the Spirit and may we help and sustain each other on the journey.

Jesus Help Me

"Jesus, Help me!" In every need let me come to you with humble trust, saying, "Jesus, help me!". In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations, "Jesus, help me!". In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials, "Jesus, help me!". In failure of my plans and hopes: In disappointments, troubles and sorrows, "Jesus, help me!". When others fail me, and Your Grace alone can assist me, "Jesus, help me!". When I throw myself on Your Tender Love as a Father and Saviour, "Jesus, help me!". When my heart is cast down by failure at seeing no good come from my efforts "Jesus help me!". When I feel impatient, and my cross irritates, "Jesus help me!". When I am ill, and my head and hands cannot work and I am lonely, "Jesus, help me!". Always, always, in spite of weakness, falls and shortcomings of every kind, "Jesus, help me!". And never forsake me!.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 32,500 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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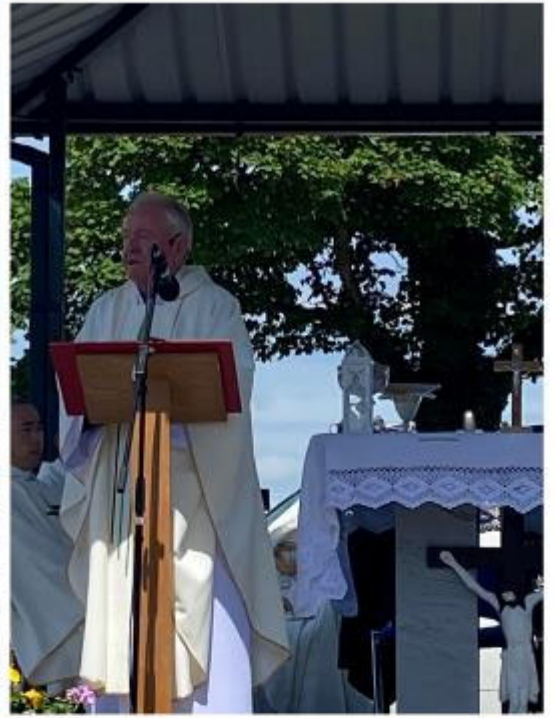
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née Paisley
Abbeyleix and formerly
St. John's Sq. Portlaoise

*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

**8TH ANNIVERSARY
REMEMBRANCE**



**In Loving Memory of
JIM
FITZPATRICK**
Abbeyleix Rd., Portlaoise.
Jimmy, Suaimhneas Dé ár
d'anam dílis, le grá ó do
chlann go léir

**In Loving Memory of our Son
DAVID CARROLL**

38th Anniversary occurred 7th June 2024



Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,
To love, to cherish and never forget,
In Heaven you rest, no worries, no pain,
In God's own time, we'll meet again.

*Loved and missed always,
Dad, Mam, sister and brothers xxxx*

*Also remembering David's Grandad Jim at this time
Always remembered by Jimmy and Maureen
May David and Jim Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of
JAMES CARROLL**

35th Anniversary occurs 9th June 2024



*Our thoughts are ever with you,
Though you have passed away,
And those who have loved you
dearly,
Are thinking of you today.*

*Sadly missed, loved and always
remembered by Oliver and family.
Rest in Peace James*

**In Loving Memory of
BILLY LYNCH R.I.P.**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. (8th Anniversary)

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church this Saturday 8th June at 6.30pm.



*Bill; Although you can't be here with
me, we're truly not apart,
Until the final breath I take, you'll be
living in my heart.
Loved always and missing you,
from Betty xxx*

*Dad; Nothing can ever take away,
The love a heart holds dear,
Fond memories linger every day,
Remembrance keeps him near.
Loved always from your sons xxx*

*Dad; Every year gets harder, since you were taken away,
A Dad so very special, in our hearts you'll always stay,
We think about you always and miss you everyday.
Loved always by Lisa and Ann-Marie xxx*

*Grandad; You're never far from mind Bill and spoke of
everyday, you left us many memories that will never go away.
Missing you grandad Bill.*

*Love from your grandchildren and great-grandchildren xxx
Also remembering his son Willie and grandson Shane
at this time*

May Billy Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of my Beautiful Son

JAMIE-LEE MOORE

9th Birthday away from home occurs 5th June 2024.



If I could have one wish in life,
that wish would have to be,
That God would take away my pain,
and send you back to me.
Your birthday's here today, my son
And I just wanted you to know,
How much I deeply love you and that
I miss you so.

On days like this we should celebrate,
But for me that now proves hard,

For unlike other mothers, I cannot send a simple birthday
card.

No kisses can I give you or birthday gifts to buy,
Only flowers I now can give you which I place down where
you lie.

Two other things I send you are my thoughts and all my love,
So hold them close and keep them safe in Heaven up above,
And please wait for me, my darling son, until my days are
through, and then I'll come and spend all time in Heaven just
with you.

Happy Heavenly 26th Birthday Jamie
Love and miss you always, Mammy xxxxxxxx

Brother

You were the centre of our world, a brother held so dear,
But now that world is shattered and you're no longer here,
But all you need to know today is how much joy you brought,
You brightened every moment though your life was far
too short,

You were loved completely from the day you were born,
And no one could imagine such a dreadful day would dawn,
But memories are wonderful and though they still bring pain,
They give us hope and keep us strong until we meet again.

Happy Heavenly Birthday brother
Loved and missed always
Tanya, Tírna, Jake & Tayler xxxx

Uncle

Holy Angels up above, give our Uncle Jamie-Lee a great big
hug. From all your nieces;
Kyra, Nellie, Jamie, Lorren, Darla xxxxx

Nephew/Grandson

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.

Happy 26th Birthday Jamie-Lee
Loved and missed always Aunty Sharon, James,
cousins, Nanny Maureen and Uncle Kevin,
Nanny Mag, Caroline & Boys xxxxxxxx

In Loving Memory of GERARD DUNNE

Braccas, Ballacolla, and formerly Borris Little,
Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary away from home occurs 8th June.



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
Saturday 8th June at 10am

*We begin to remember, not just
that you died, but that you lived,
and that your life gave us
memories too beautiful to forget.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his
loving wife Kathleen and family xxx*

May Gerard Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of GER, JOHN & SEAMUS DUNNE

Late of 6 Borris Little, Portlaoise, whose anniversaries
occur at this time.



Wonderful memories of ones
so dear, treasured still with a
love sincere,
In our hearts they are living yet,
we loved them too dearly to
forget.



Loved and remembered by Geraldine, Tony and family.

Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of PADDY BRACKEN

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise whose Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 15th June at 6.30pm.

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

*Loved always by the Dunne family
Also remembering Mary and Laurence Dunne*

Rest in Peace Paddy

With the Lord there is mercy
Psalm 129





In Loving Memory of **JOHNNIE ALLEN**



Eyne, Portlaoise. 9th Anniversary occurs 13th June.



The lovely memories we have of
you, will stay with us our whole
lives through.

Though absent you are always near,
Sadly missed and loved so dear.

Forever remembered by your
loving family xx

Rest in Peace Johnnie



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Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June



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friends@portlaoisehospital@yahoo.com

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David **087-2369887**

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



Portlaoise Parish



Results for
6th June 2024



No €16,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

MATCH 3s €1,000

PROMOTER

Mary Maher
Anne Marie Condon
Christy Rowe
Declan O'Loughlin
Jennie Langton
E. Dunne & S. Og Brown
Mark Ryan
Mick Galway
The Dandy Man
Ger & Sue
Eimear Leahy
Beth Kelly
Bernie Condon
Una Richardson
Uta Herwelling
Caoimhe Fitzpatrick

**16
Match
3s
Receive
€63
each**

Online Lotto
Online Lotto
Marie Rowe
John Loughlin
James Houlihan
Bobby Haslam
Richard Phelan
Anthony Preston
Rocky Keogh
Geraldine O'Connor
Parish Centre
Beth Kelly
Paul Dooley
Vera Richardson
Pacelli Walsh
Pam Killeen

Next Week's Jackpot is €17,000

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
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: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

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

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 3:9-15 | Psalm 129

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 | Mark 3:20-35

Supporting our Parish

*Each one must give as he or she has decided in their heart, not reluctantly or
under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver' 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

- * Making your offering in the boxes at the Church entrances
- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes
available at Church porches and Parish Centre
 - * Direct payment by cheque or cash
 - * Cashless tap facility at 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

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FOR YOUR SUPPORT



OLD FORT FEST

27TH - 30TH JUNE 2024

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PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS



Thursday June 27th

THE TUMBLING PADDIES
GEORGE MURPHY

Friday June 28th

THE WHISTLIN' DONKEYS
THE DOOLEY BROTHERS

Saturday June 29th

POGUEOLOGY
LIVE FOREVER - OASIS TRIBUTE

Sunday June 30th

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