

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

14th December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent



Preparations continue
To celebrate the
great Feast
Of Christmas

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

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Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Joy

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.

ADVENT CALLS US TO STOP AND THINK



Advent calls us to stop and think. But for nearly everyone the season of Advent is also the busiest time of the year. There is so much to be done to prepare for Christmas; cards, presents, the planning of meals, hospitality in general. Leaving aside whether we actually need to do all this and whether it could not all be simplified, the actuality of most lives during Advent is emphatically not one of contemplation. We can benefit from moments each day, that we set aside just to keep ourselves grounded in faith. It is Jesus and his birth that we celebrate, not just togetherness. Can we still enter into the spirit of Advent, this holy season?

Sr Wendy Beckett

**Today we welcome Bishop Denis,
Celebrant of our 11.15am Mass in
the Parish Church.
Thank you Bishop.**



Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday

7.30am & 10am

Tuesday - 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.



Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

Molly Harper Sutti, Quakers Wood

Elliot Niall Higgins, Liogard

Thiago Ferrer McCarthy, Summerhill

Ali Skylark McCormack, Forest Park

Miyah Margaret Murambinda

Maisei Tatenda Murambinda

Who were baptised recently.

Penitential Service

Parish Church

Monday 22nd December

7.30pm.

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.

Christmas Arrangements Inside our Linkup on page ? or visit our website
www.portlaoiseparish.ie

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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
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. All are welcome.



CANCER AND DEMENTIA STUDY

CALL PEOPLE WITH CANCER AND DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

We need people living with dementia and a diagnosis of cancer and their caregivers and/or family members to take part in our study. This also includes people living with dementia that have had a concurrent diagnosis of cancer.



WHAT'S INVOLVED

If you have both cancer and dementia or care for someone who does, we would like to speak to you and conduct a confidential 1-hour interview (online or in person) at a time that suits you.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This is the first Irish study to explore the supportive care needs of people living with both cancer and dementia, as well as their caregivers. It is part of a PhD project at Dublin City University and is funded by the Irish Cancer Society.



WANT MORE INFO?

Please contact the researcher **Jane Gaffey**
Email: jane.gaffey4@mail.dcu.ie
Phone: 0892163991

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Ozanam House, No 1 Dublin Road Portlaoise.

St Vincent de Paul Portlaoise are preparing for an extremely busy period in the run up to Christmas.

Our volunteers will be working with families who strive to make Christmas a happy and joyful time for their families. However, families are finding it very difficult to cope with the rising costs of food, heat, rent, education, and clothing. Our team has been working with families who struggle weekly and we assist, encourage and guide families in a confidential manner.

All donations are gratefully appreciated and are used in our local community in Portlaoise, we would appreciate if you would support our upcoming St Vincent de Paul church gate collection weekend on:

Saturday 13th of December and Sunday 14th of December 2025

Our Conference cannot express enough, how much we appreciate your continued support, without your assistance our work would be impossible. Your donation will be vital in helping us succeed, and will make an incredible difference to people's lives

You can also use the St Vincent de Paul Donation Box in St Peter & Paul's Church

You can donate by post to St Vincent de Paul, Ozanam House, No 1 Dublin Road, Portlaoise

You can donate online (AIB Portlaoise) using our IBAN number: IE73AIBK93327917987070

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Sunday 14th December 2025

Fundraiser for school yard equipment and bus transport costs for sports/school events

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on the
day

Starting and Finishing at the Heath Hall
R32 R8YD (Beside the Heath Church)

Registration in the hall from 4pm – 4:45pm

Run Commences @ 5pm SHARP

Registration – €20 per Tractor and €30 per Truck
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New!

Christmas Market
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Start time 4:30pm
All types of pedal power welcome!



Organised by

The Heath N.S. Parents' Council
All funds raised go directly to the school

Build an amazing future
together as a team



Sunday 14th December 2025

Fundraiser for school yard equipment and bus transport costs for sports/school events

Takes place in the Heath Hall
R32 R8YD (Beside the Heath Church)

From 2pm – 6pm

support this community festive
event with local stalls

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The Heath N.S. Parents' Council
All funds raised go directly to the school

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER

Top score: Ann O'Dowd. 1st Lady: Ann Marie Farrell. 2nd Lady: Catherine Galvin. 1st Gent: Tied; Liam McCarthney. 2nd Gent: Tied; Christy Fitzpatrick, Terry Dunne, Frank Keenan. 1st Half: Catherine Fitzpatrick. 2nd Half: Tied; Austin Kavanagh. 13 Tricks: Kit Farrell & Ann O'Dowd. Raffle: 1st Frances Dunne, 2nd Ann O'Dowd, 3rd Margaret Flanagan, 4th Austin Kavanagh. *Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new members always welcome, lessons available if required.*

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS For family, friends or anyone affected by someone struggling with alcoholism. Al-anon meeting every Thursday night at 8pm in Portlaoise. For further information contact 086-8706017.

LAOIS COUNTY BRIDGE CLUB, PORTLAOISE Morning bridge every Wednesday morning at 10.15am in Portlaoise Enterprise Centre. Beginners are welcome and lessons given to improve your skills. Contact William on 087-0929898.

CHESS GAMES FOR ADULTS in Portlaoise in Kavanagh bar every two weeks. More information about our chess club:
<https://www.meetup.com/social-chess-club-in-portlaoise/>

ACTIVE RETIREMENT -Monday 15th Bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4pm Wednesday 17th-Christmas party time from 3pm in Parish Centre New members welcome. Thursday 18th. In Sue Ryder centre Kilminchy cards and chat from 3pm new members welcome tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 087-9187157.

DON'T MISS 'YVONNE AT HEY PESTO' for a Cookery Demonstration filled with SEASONAL TREATS, HANDY TIPS AND CHRISTMAS CHEER on Tuesday, December 16th 2025, in the G.A.A. Community Hall, The Heath at 7.30p.m. Drinks reception from 7p.m. Proceeds in aid of The Heath Active Retired Group Lip-sync battle. Tickets from 086/8895873 or at the door on the night.

SEAN DOYLE LIGHT ENGINEERING, BALLACOLLA: Call 087-2068972 | seandoylelightengineering.ie
Clothesline poles, rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, sawhorses, bicycle stands.

PANTO PRODUCTION "Goldilocks and the 3 Beours" Dunamais Theatre Sat. 17th to 24th January. Tickets on sale at the Theatre. An ideal Christmas gift!

RELIGIOUS NOTES

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Every Sunday at 3 PM in the Parish Church.

ROSARY IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH: Daily 2pm (Monday to Saturday), Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

ROSARY will be recited in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, every evening at 7pm.

VOCATIONS SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH: Holy Hour, Adoration, and Prayer for Vocations Every Friday at 3PM in the Parish Church.

LEGION OF MARY invites you to join us every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Parish Prayer Hall as we come together in prayer and service to Our Lady.

COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP: Please join us in community prayers every Tuesday at 11:00am via WhatsApp. For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome.

RADIO MARIA IRELAND is an Irish-run Catholic talk radio station offering commercial-free prayer, catechesis, music, talks, and interviews. Listen anytime on Saorview Channel 210, our free app, online at radiomaria.ie, or on Facebook Live. Join us daily for spiritual nourishment, prayer, and uplifting programs.

PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - accompanied by a Spiritual Director – 24th to 28th August 2026. €700 pp sharing. €200 deposit secures your place – paid before Dec. 31st 2025. Savings Club available to pay your balance. 4 nights in hotel Avena. All flights/transfers/meals included. Fully escorted pilgrimage. Contact: Mary 085-2829231 or John 087-1254841.

P.O.P.A

are delighted to announce the
long awaited return of the

Annual Christmas Dinner

The 59th Senior Citizens Annual
Dinner will take place on

11th January 2026

in The Killeshin Hotel
Dinner is at 2pm sharp followed by an
Afternoon of Music & Dancing.

All Parish residents aged 65+ are welcome to
join us. Tickets are available from
The Parish Centre, Martleys Shop
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Cost per ticket is €15 per OAP
Care assistant if required are €20
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PORTLAOISE PARISH LOURDES COMMITTEE

The above Committee would like to sincerely thank
all our 2025 Pilgrims for their kindness to us on our
pilgrimage. The committee enjoyed a beautiful
Christmas Meal in Kelly's Steak House.

Unfortunately, Ruadhairí Tierney was unable to
join us as he is on Music Tour in Austria at present.
The committee extend our appreciation to all our
pilgrims and wish you a peaceful, healthy and happy
Christmas 25 and New Year wishes for 2026.

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FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE

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

RAHEEN PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

Income

Basket Collection	€23,125
Envelope Collection	€23,172
Shrine Income	€ 4,372
Rental Income	€ 1,180
Tax Refund	€13,094
Lotto	€10,314
Other collections	€ 1,605

TOTAL €76,862

Expenses

Pastoral programmes	€ 560
Insurance	€ 8,997
Security	€ 278
Rates water LPT	€ 315
Light /Heat	€10,523
Maintenance	€12,056
Diocesan Levy	€ 5,335
Printing	€ 465
Altar Requisites	€ 9,683
Phone/broadband	€ 1,068
Hire of equipment	€ 180
Music Expenses	€ 116
Professional Fees	€ 966
Accountancy fees	€ 544
Bank Charges	€ 610

TOTAL €51,696

**Our thanks and
appreciation to all
who support our
Parish**

**The
Parish Shop**

At the Parish Centre



**Call in and browse our
large selection of;**

- Crib/Nativity Sets
- Christmas Ornaments and Gifts
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- Diaries and Calendars
- Bibles and Books
- **Christmas Mass Bouquets €3**

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IN DECEMBER**

Christmas Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Saturdays 6th, 13th & 20th Dec. 10am-1pm



CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish www.portlaoiseparish.ie

HANDING ON
THE FAITH



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 emphasise our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

The Gift That Jesus Brings



There's a story about a young boy who checked the presents under the tree every day. He loved looking through them, arranging them, and counting them. One day, he discovered that his sister had more gifts than he did. He ran to his mother very upset.

"Katie has more presents under the Christmas tree than I do!" he cried.

His mom explained that getting gifts under the tree isn't what Christmas is really all about because Jesus is our greatest gift. Have you ever felt the way this boy did?

How did that experience affect your joy in that moment?

Christmas should be a time of joy. Today, we'll learn our true joy is in Jesus' birth, not the presents we get. In fact, God tells us that giving is even better than receiving.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist was sent to prepare people for the coming of Jesus. He told them to repent of their sins and prepare their hearts for the coming of our Saviour.

"What should we do?" they asked.

John replied, "If you have two coats, give one of them to the one who has none. If you have food, share it with those who have none."

This message is for us, too. If we want to experience the real joy that Jesus wants for us, then we must learn to share. By sharing what God has so generously given to us, we will receive an even greater gift -- the gift of joy.

What is one way you can give others joy during Christmas?

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to learn that it is through remembering Jesus' birth and giving to others that we receive true joy at Christmas.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

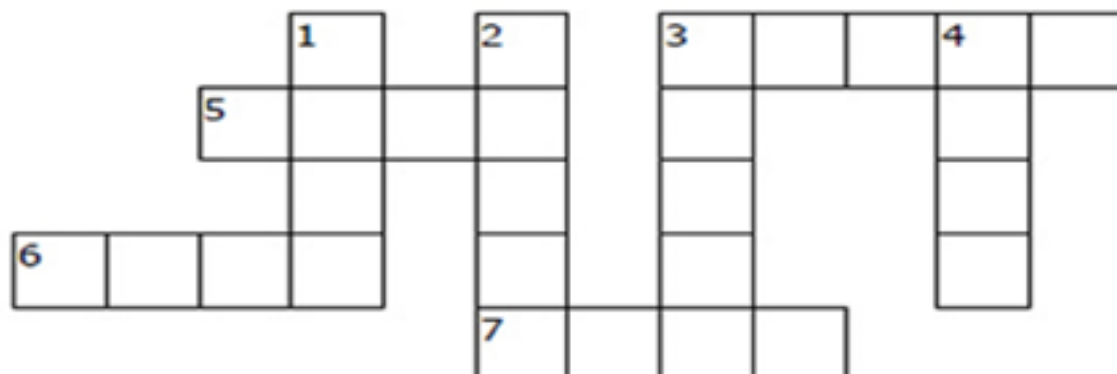




CHRISTMAS JOY

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." Luke 3:11

Puzzle is based on Luke 3:7-11



ACROSS

3. An item of clothing that is worn on the upper half of the body.
5. To have very little money or possessions
6. The opposite of bad
7. A tall plant that has a trunk, Branches, and leaves.

DOWN

1. What we eat
2. The sweet food that grows on a tree.
3. To give part of what you have to someone else
4. The part of a tree that grows under the ground.



REJOICE



ROOT
FOOD

TREE
GOOD

POOR
FRUIT

SHARE
SHIRT



*Come, Lord Jesus,
child of the earth,
child of God.
Come into our world of
joy and sorrow.
Stay with us always,
now and at the hour of
our death.*



ALTAR SERVERS

To show our appreciation to all our Altar Servers for their hard work, we are holding a Christmas Movie and party in the Parish Centre after the 12.30pm Mass next Sunday 21st December. Children can be collected from the Parish Centre at 2.45pm.

If you seek a special gift
The greatest gift of all
Don't look beneath your tree
It was never there at all
The greatest Christmas gift
Was given to us all
The Christ child in a manger
In a lowly cattle stall.

Time to Think...

Robin Red Breast - A Christmas Bird



These days we find ourselves plunged into the depths of winter darkness. Nature seems to have fallen asleep and yet in its raw and empty silence, creation continues to inspire hope and contemplation. The tiny and very beautiful Robin Red Breast is synonymous with the Christmas story. Many people believe when Robins are near, so too, are loved ones gone before us. Hence, huge folklore has developed about the life of Robins. They represent the Christmas bird song. In Christian folklore, the Robin was said to have played a sacred role in protecting the infant Jesus as Mary fled with him to Egypt. After cutting her leg on brambles, Mary left a trail of blood...allowing Herod's soldiers to follow. Yet seeing the family in need the devoted Robin covered the blood with leaves and twigs to keep them hidden from danger. Across Europe, especially in Britain, Ireland, and parts of northern France and Germany, the humble European robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) carries a rich body of Christian legend that explains its most striking feature — its red breast — and gives it a special place in religious folk imagination.

The most widespread and enduring story tells how a small brown bird was present at the Crucifixion of Jesus. As Christ hung on the Cross, a little bird noticed his suffering and flew to him. In pity, it tried to ease his pain by pulling out one of the cruel thorns from the crown pressed into his brow. As it tugged at the thorn, a drop (or in some versions, a splash) of Christ's blood fell from Jesus' forehead onto the bird's breast, staining it red forever. From that day on, the bird has worn the "blood of Christ" as a badge of compassion. Another closely related version says the robin flew to the Cross to sing a song of comfort to the dying Saviour. As it sang close to his face, drops of blood again fell onto its breast. In some tellings, the bird also tried to fan the burning brow of Jesus with its wings or bring him water in its beak. A third variant claims the robin stayed near the Cross after the disciples had fled, singing sweetly until Christ died, and its breast was scorched red by the heat of divine love or by the flames of nearby torches.

Another legend ties the robin to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. On the cold night of Christ's birth, the fire in the stable was dying out and the Holy Family was shivering. A plain brown bird flew in and fanned the embers with its wings until they burst into flame again, keeping the baby warm. Its breast was singed red by the flames, and God rewarded its kindness by declaring that it and all its descendants would carry that red breast as a mark of honour.

This "fire" story is especially popular in France, Brittany, and western England, and sometimes the bird is said to have been a wren before it became a robin.

Because of these legends, the robin came to be seen as a profoundly sacred bird in Christian folk belief, it is widely considered very bad luck — even a sin — to harm a robin or disturb its nest. In many rural areas of Britain and Ireland until the 20th century, people believed that anyone who killed a "God's bird" or a "Christ's bird" would suffer misfortune (broken bones, milk cows drying up, fires in the house, etc.). Robins are said to cover the bodies of the unburied dead with leaves and flowers (an ancient belief that was Christianised and attached especially to the robin because of its association with Christ's blood and burial). A robin seen near a house at Christmas or singing is a sign that Christ's blessing is on the household. In some areas, a robin tapping at the window foretells a death — but a gentle one, because the bird has come as Christ's messenger to carry the soul to heaven.

The bird appears frequently in British Christmas carols and folk songs that blend pagan and Christian imagery. One old carol fragment runs:

The robin redbreast and the wren,
Are God Almighty's cock and hen.

Another traditional verse (often sung by children at New Year):

"The robin and the redbreast,

The robin and the wren;

If ye take out o' their nest,

Ye'll never thrive again!"

George Herbert, John Clare, William Wordsworth, and later Gerard Manley Hopkins all wrote poems celebrating the robin's sacred associations. Perhaps the most famous literary use is in the anonymous 16th- or 17th-century lullaby or carol often called "The Seven Joys of Mary," which includes the lines:

"The next good joy that Mary had,

It was the joy of three;

To see her own son Jesus Christ

Pulling at the robin's tree.

With a little red cap on his breast,

To keep him from the cold."

Even in modern Britain and Ireland, many people still feel a special affection for the robin and hesitate to harm it. Gardeners and birdwatchers often refer to "the gardener's friend" with something approaching reverence, and the old legends linger in the background. The robin is the unofficial national bird of the United Kingdom, and every December it dominates Christmas cards — almost always depicted with its bright red breast, a quiet echo of the medieval belief that it carries a drop of the Saviour's blood. In the folk Christianity of northern Europe, few creatures are as beloved. However their connection with Christmas really came about, they are bright-eyed, intelligent, engaging little birds. Gardeners know that as soon as you turn the soil a robin will be there watching you closely, following your movements on the lookout for food in the disturbed earth. I find it a great pleasure to see these delightful creatures in my garden, or wherever I am outdoors. The notion of their being a tiny living prayer is one I'm more than happy to go along with.

Especially at Christmas. I pray, in these very sacred days, leading up to Christmas, that we will breathe easily in the confident hope, that the birth of Christ, will continue to inspire renewal and joy within us all. Like the humble and simple Robin, may we keep our eyes on Christ, who is the reason for the season!





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Fantastic festivities took place in Scoil Chríost Rí on Wednesday 3 December.

Our Mini Company Club of 1st, 2nd and 3rd years and our Mini Company Classes from TY displayed their crafts and wares while Santa met the young children who all went away with a gift bag. We had elves colouring with children and a sensory hour which we opened to the entire community.

We were delighted to see young children, parents and grandparents joining the festivities and supporting our wonderful young people. Our Student Council sold hot chocolate, and all proceeds were sent to Barnardo's.

We would like to thank the community and hope to see you in early December 2026!



*Happy Christmas
from
Scoil Chríost Rí*



CHRISTMAS BINGO

in aid of Stradbally Parish Lourdes Fund

Vicarstown Community Hall
3pm - Sunday 14th December



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Christmas Carol Service

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with
Ratheniska Children's Choir

Sunday 21st December, 6pm

**Church of the
Holy Cross Ratheniska**

Donations welcomed
on the evening in aid of
Midlands Regional
Hospital Paediatric
Department

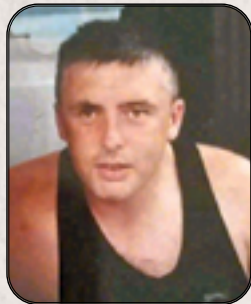


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Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died



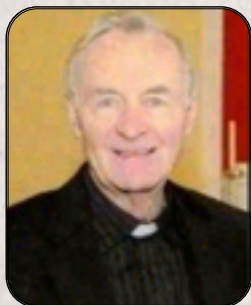
**Grazina
Katkauskiene**
*Maryborough Village,
Portlaoise*



William O'Shea
*O'Moore Place,
Portlaoise*



James (Paddy) Drury
Bride Street, Ballinakill



Fr. Jim Fingleton
*Ratheniska, Stradbally,
Laois / Dublin*



Kevin Gray
Rahanavannagh, Ballyroan

*May They Rest In Peace
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT &
1ST ANNIVERSARY**
In Loving Memory of
**KATHLEEN
(KITTY) BUTLER**
Timahoe.

Anniversary Mass in St. Michael's
Church, Timahoe on **Sunday 14th December at 10.15am.**

The family of the late Kitty Butler would like to extend
our heartfelt thanks to all who supported us in our
time of bereavement.

Thank you to Fr. Kelly for praying the Rosary, to
Fr. Vard for celebrating the Mass and to Karen,
the choir and Aaron.

Thank you to all who gave wreaths, sent letters,
Mass Cards and messages of sympathy.

Thank you to Whelehan Funeral Undertakers
for their professionalism and support.

Thank you to the staff of Droimnin Nursing Home,
especially to Caroline and Roisin for their
kindness to Mam.

Thank you to the staff of the Midlands Regional
Hospital, Portlaoise and to the Paramedics for
their unending support.

Thank you to the Hall Committee and Bosco's catering.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone
individually, please accept this acknowledgement
as a token of our appreciation.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
will be offered for your intentions..

Rest in Peace Kathleen



In Loving Memory of
LILY REID
Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

15th Anniversary occurs 10th December 2025.
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter
& Paul's Parish Church, on **Saturday 13th
December at 6.30pm.**

My Angel in the Sky

Each day I look to Heaven,
Each day I call your name,
Each day just feels so different,
It hasn't been the same.

Each day I always question, I often wonder why?
You had to go away from me, my Angel in the sky.
I keep you in my memories, since we've been apart,
And I'll always have a part of you, locked safely in my heart.

*Always loved and remembered by her loving husband
and family, extended family and friends.*

May Lily Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
**JOHN &
MARY
ROCHE**

Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise.

John's 7th Anniversary occurs 18th December 2025.

Mary's 4th Anniversary occurs 9th January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, on **Saturday 13th December at 6.30pm.**

I hide my tears when I say your name,
But the pain in my heart is still the same,
Though I smile and seem carefree,
There is no one who misses you more than me.
Your presence I miss, your memory I treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by their sons, daughters, grandchildren,
sons-in-laws, daughters-in-law, great-grandchildren and extended family.*

May They Rest in Peace



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of

NED RYAN

Morette, Emo, Portlaoise.

We the family of Ned would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who sympathised with us by Mass card, phone and in person and those who thought of us in any way.

We are grateful to you.

A sincere word of gratitude to those who played a part in the funeral Mass and made it so special and personal to Ned especially Father David Vard who was such a good friend to Ned throughout his illness.

We extend our thanks to Keegan funeral directors for their professionalism and the grave diggers for preparing Ned's final resting place.

We want to especially thank Dr. Sean Montague, Caroline Goode and all the staff at Kilnacourt Surgery for their kindness and exceptional care given to Ned, the staff in Beaumont Hospital, Laois Palliative Care and public health nurse Caroline.

Thanks to John Fennell, the staff at Scoil Bhríd and all his busy bees who were always kind and loving to Ned.

Thanks to the staff of Portlaoise and Mountjoy prisons, Tyndall College and the Department of Psychiatry Portlaoise especially male admission who gave us great support.

To Ned's wonderful friends who supported him from the first day of his illness and were always with him, especially the week before he passed.

We will never be able to thank you enough,

Our families and friends for their support and love.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your Intentions.

Always loved Ray and Evelyn,

Ray and Ellen, Jack, Anne



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE In Loving Memory of **MARIA McDONALD**

Whose Birthday occurred
13th December.

6th Christmas away from home.

OLIVER McDONALD

4th Christmas away from home.

There's a little place within my heart,

That is with me every day.

A place where all my memories,

Are softly tucked away.

It is the perfect place,

At special times for me to go,

For words could not explain,

How very much I miss you so.

And now that once again,

Christmas time has come around,

It's where the sweetest memories,

And thoughts of you are found.

Remembered with love.

From your daughters Sharon, Margaret, Sierra & Jan.

Sons Lee & Cody, all the grandchildren, friends & extended family.

May They Rest In Peace



In Loving Memory of **PHYLLIS LALOR**

Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurs 20th December 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church **Saturday 20th December at 6.30pm.**

Mam

A daily thought, a silent tear,

A constant wish that you were here.

Love and miss you every day 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 every day.

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 every day 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 every day,

Daithí, Mags, Shauna, Oisín and Cillian xxxxx

Rest in Peace Phyllis



In Loving Memory of
***DENIS (DINNY)
FITZPATRICK***

46 Liogard, Portlaoise.
17th Anniversary occurred 13th
December 2025.

We miss you from your fireside chair,
Your loving smile and gentle air,
Your vacant place, no one can fill,
We miss you Daddy and always will.

He was a husband so very rare,
Content in his home and always there,
On Earth he toiled, in Heaven he rests,
God bless you Din, you were one of the best.

*Lovingly remembered by your wife Doreen,
children Ann, Tina, John and Dor, sons-in-law,
daughter-in-law and grandchildren.*

*May the Lord lay
his gentle hand upon him*



In Loving Memory of
ANNIE DOWNEY

7 Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.
10th Anniversary on 23rd December,
Anniversary Mass Sunday 21st December
at 12:30pm Mass

As each day dawns, we think of you,
As each night falls, we pray for you,
And throughout our lives,
No matter where.

*Always remembered by all your loving family.
May Annie Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of My Mother
CATHERINE KEOGH

Borris Rd. Portlaoise.
47th Anniversary occurred
14th December 2025.

A silent thought a tear drop falls
For a special Mam
In God's care she rests above
In our hearts she rests with love

*Also remembering her grandson Kevin at this time.
Always loved & remembered your daughter Margaret,
son in law Oliver & grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Mam



In Loving Memory of Our Brother

***ELIZABETH
FLANAGAN
(NÉE WRIGHT)***

Late of Green Rd. Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurred 12th
December 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this **Sunday 14th December at 11:15am.**

For each cloud there's a rainbow,
For each shadow, the sun,
For each parting, memories,
So our loved ones are never truly gone.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving
husband Tony, daughter Sinead, sons Trevor, Kevin,
Tony Jnr. and Matthew Jnr., granddaughters, relatives
and friends.*

Rest in Peace Elizabeth



In Loving Memory of
CHRISTINA SAUNDERS

Borris Rd, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary 18th December 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
Sunday 14th December at 12.30pm.

Also remembering her husband, Tony.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by
Eilis, Ger, George, Clare and Trevor.*

Rest in Peace Christina



In Loving Memory of
DES BROWNE

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 19th December 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Friday 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 it's 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



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT,
MONTHS MIND
In Loving Memory of
**PATRICK (PADDY)
LANGTON**
Rathnamanagh, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois.

Paddy's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church
Saturday 20th December at 6.30pm.

The family of the late Paddy Langton would like to
express our sincere appreciation to everyone who
supported us during this difficult time.

Thank you to our friends and neighbours who called
to sympathise, to extended family and relatives for
their support.

Thanks also to those who expressed condolences online,
by phone, in person, sent Mass cards, and to those
who thought of us in any way – we are so grateful.

We would like to express our appreciation to
Monsignor John Byrne for celebrating Paddy's Funeral
Mass with such kind words and warmth and to those
who played a part in the Funeral Mass.

We extend our thanks to Keegan Funeral Directors
for their professionalism and to the grave diggers
for preparing Paddy's final resting place.

A sincere word of gratitude to the staff of Tullamore
and Portlaoise Hospital who looked after and cared
for Paddy so well.

A special word of Thanks is also expressed to Phil,
Frances, Karen, Emma & Sadhbh for all their help
and support during this time

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually,
please accept this acknowledgment as a sincere
expression of our appreciation.

The Holy Sacrament of the Mass will be offered for
your intentions.

At this time, we would also like to remember Paddy's
wife Mary Langton whose 16th Anniversary occurs
on 22nd December.

*With heartfelt thanks, Yvonne, Patrick, Jenny,
Rebecca and Aaron Langton.*

Rest in Peace Paddy



In Loving Memory of
MONICA MULDOWNEY
Togher, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 15th December 2025.

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
JOHN ARRIGAN
Newpark, Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurred
8th December 2025.

Anniversary Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church,
**On Sunday 14th December at
11.15am.**

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace John



In Loving Memory of
**MICHAEL
& BRIDGET
RYAN**



Kilmurry, Stradbally.

Whose 12th and 7th Anniversaries occur at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
the Church of the Assumption, the Heath,
this **Sunday 14th December at 9:30am.**

To your resting place we visit,
Place flowers there with care,
But no one knows our heartache,
When we turn and leave you there.

Sadly missed by their family, extended family and friends.

May They Rest in Peace



Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
TERESA McCLOSKEY

Well Road Court, Portlaoise,
Whose Month's Mind occurs at this time.

Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure.

Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.

*Loved and missed by your daughter Jackie.
Rest in Peace Teresa*



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Presentation Sisters Celebrating 250 Years

**Venerable Nano Nagle and her three companions
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**This year, on December 24th, Presentation Sisters and Presentation schools worldwide
will officially mark the 250th anniversary of this foundation and begin a year of
celebration continuing through 2026, honouring Nano's legacy of education and
service to the poor with global events and educational initiatives.**

**Scoil Chríost Rí will be celebrating the 250th anniversary
of the founding of the Presentation Sisters.**

Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter and Paul's Church Portlaoise on

Thursday 18th December 2025 at 11.30 a.m.

Please join us in celebrating this wonderful occasion.



**SHALOM
WORLD**

My dear church family,

God is writing a beautiful story of faithfulness among us, and let me share it with you. Moreover, to see this story reach its God-given conclusion, we need your helping hands. Will you join us?

You see, God doesn't ask for our wealth- He asks for our willingness. Decades ago, one man showed us just how powerful that willingness can be. With a broken-down TV and a heart full of prayer, he said "yes" to God's call. That single "yes" grew into Shalom World, which today shares the message of Christ with 194 countries- completely free, without ads. Just the pure Gospel.

And now, in His perfect timing, God has provided a home for this work right here in **Portlaoise -The Rosetta House!** This building is a direct answer to our prayers. Glory to God! But receiving the keys is only the beginning. Now, we must roll up our sleeves and quickly transform this space into a functioning office and TV studio.

We have never relied on our own resources, but on God's providence through the generous sacrifices of people like you. We are giving all we can, much like the Gospel widow who offered her two small coins. Now, we are asking for your help to raise **Eighty Thousand Euros**. With your support, together we can continue the vital work of sharing Christ's peace with our children, grandchildren and the whole world, through media!

This Christmas, as we celebrate the Good News for everyone revealed in the manger, would you prayerfully consider how you might take part in this ongoing miracle? Your donation will directly fund essential equipment like cameras, microphones, lights, computers, office furniture, and also help complete the crucial building renovations.

The need is urgent, but the impact will last for eternity. Join us in building this studio for God's glory. May God bless you abundantly, in His perfect way.

With a heart full of hope and gratitude,

Cini John
Director, Shalom World TV
Ph: 087 613 9026 | Email: cini@shalomworld.org



shalomworld.eu/buildingfund



I welcome Shalom World as a neighbour having purchased Rosetta House. Also we have been fortunate in being able to acquire from them The Coach House at Rosetta – right beside the Parish Centre. I encourage you to discover and donate to Shalom World, a ministry faithfully bringing the light of Christ to our own homes and around the world. To have this mission grow from our home here in Portlaoise is a special grace. I urge you, in your kindness, please consider giving generously. Make Shalom World a part of your daily faith journey and share this gift with others.

Msgr. John Byrne, P.P.



Portlaoise Parish

presents:



Sunday 21st December

at 7.30pm

join us:

**for our annual traditional Carol Service
in St. Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise**

Christmas Coffee Morning

for patients, family & friends
Friday, 19th December 2025,
10am-12noon

**We look forward
to seeing you!**



Cuisle Cancer Support Centre
Block Road, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois, R32 Y8P2
Tel: 057 868 1492



Portlaoise Parish

Results for
11th December 2025



02

16

17

23

One €11,000 Jackpot Winner

**Congratulations to Buddy Kelly,
Promoter Anne Kelly**

WINNERS

Francis McEvoy
Lorraine Oglesby
Pat O'Gorman & Keelin O'Reilly
Lorraine Quigley
Andrew Phelan
Mary Doran
Rosie & Ger O'Byrne
Ashling Gleeson
Leo Bergin
John Loughlin
Darragh & Fionn

MATCH 3s €1,000

**11
Match
3s
Receive
€91**

PROMOTER

Theresa Kelly
Pat Bowler
Online Lotto
Online Lotto
Nora Walsh
Mary Doran
Betty Brophy
Lil Gleeson
Veronica Doheny
John Loughlin
Betty Phelan

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish

& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €10,000

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: 0578621364**

Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie



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.

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

Scan this QR Code to take you
directly to our Donate facility



Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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 Secretary Michelle Bartley

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**



LINK UP

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

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2025

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

TUESDAY 16th TO SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER Mass at 7am.

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER Mass at 8.30am

MONDAY 22nd TO WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER Mass at 7am.

CAROL SERVICES

Parish Carol Service - Sunday 21st December, Parish Church 7.30pm

CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICES

Children's Choir with Midland strings and Mary Wisley - Sunday 21st December, Parish Church 3pm

Ratheniska Children's Choir – Sunday 21st December, Ratheniska Church at 6pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENITENTIAL SERVICE)

Monday 22nd December, Parish Church 7.30pm

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 23rd December, Parish Church after 10am Mass to 1pm

Wednesday 24th December, Parish Church after 10am Mass to 1pm

PARISH CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES

Children's Masses

4.00pm (aimed at pre 1st Communion) & 6pm

Parish Church 9pm

Mass in Ukrainian at 10.30pm and in Polish at 12midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES

Parish Church 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm. The Heath 9.30am and Ratheniska 10am.

FRIDAY 26th DECEMBER (ST. STEPHEN'S DAY) Parish Church 10am and in Polish at 2pm

SATURDAY 27th DECEMBER Parish Church 10am

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER (THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH)

Parish Church 6.30pm (vigil), 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm. The Heath 9.30am and Ratheniska 10am

MONDAY 29th DECEMBER TO SATURDAY 3rd JANUARY

Parish Church 10am

SUNDAY 4th JANUARY (SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS)

Parish Church 6.30pm (vigil), 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm. The Heath 9.30am and Ratheniska 10am

MONDAY 5th JANUARY

Parish Church 10am and 7.30pm (vigil for the Epiphany of the Lord)

TUESDAY 6th JANUARY (THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

NORMAL MASS SCHEDULE RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY 7th JANUARY

Please access our website for our up to date news and Mass times. www.portlaoiseparish.ie