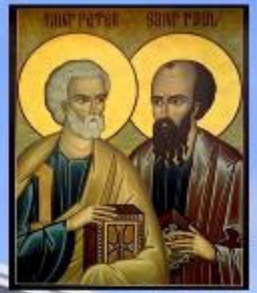


Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time



St. Peter & Paul
Feast Day 29th June

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

23rd June 2024



Msgr. John Byrne recently stepped down as chairperson of the Boards of Management of Holy Family Junior and Senior Schools. To mark this significant occasion, the school community held a celebration on Wednesday, which also coincided with his Jubilee celebrations in the Parish Church (see page 13). We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Monsignor John Byrne for his dedicated service and remarkable contributions over the last 24 years.

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

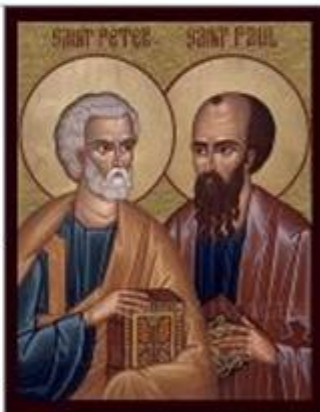
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Saints Peter and Paul Saturday 29th June

Peter and Paul represent two strikingly different approaches to discipleship. Peter had to learn slowly, making many mistakes along the way. Paul, on the other hand, came to the Faith immediately and never backed away from his zeal for Christ after that. We aim to imitate these two great apostles in our own lives. Like Peter, we know we are likely to fail and to get things wrong, yet we aim to persevere. Like Paul, we must always be on fire for the Lord, and proclaim Him to everyone and in every situation, no matter how difficult it can sometimes be to do so. The 10am Mass on Saturday 29th will honour our patron saints and implore their intercession.



Patrons of our Parish
St. Peter and St. Paul Pray for Us

Peter's Pence Collection takes place next 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.



Thought for the Day

Christ the Friend of James: he was in our boat. He was with us when we encountered a storm. He came to our rescue when we had nowhere else to turn. How often I remembered this experience in the years that

followed. It always spoke to me so powerfully—and it always made such an impression on people who were hearing about the Lord for the first time! It was an image for me of the life of every Christian. Christ is always with each one of us, and he has the power to protect us from every evil, to bring us safely through the most trying of times.

Bitesize There is much in the world to make us afraid. There is much more in our faith to make us unafraid. Frederick W. Cropp

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 & 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.

The Birth of John the Baptist 24th June

John's mission had two facets. First of all he called people to repentance and baptism. Secondly he prepared the way for Jesus. In a way he



was God's spokes person. But that's not where it all ends. God's project of salvation is still to be carried out and it doesn't necessarily take a great profit like John. A prophet is simply a spokesperson, a job each of us could undertake to varying degrees. The ministry of John the Baptist continues in us. St. John's motto was, "Jesus must become more and more. I must become less and less." He said that he was not even worthy to loosen the strap of Jesus' sandal.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Aoibheann Marie Gray, Clonboyne Close

Molly Isabella Phelan, Cappagh North

Éala Gibson Jones, Aghnaharna Drive

Richard Patrick Downey, Rath Gailine

Oisín William Corcoran, Clonad

Who were baptised last weekend.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to those who supported me, I will endeavour to work to the best of my ability for our district over the next 5 years.

Councillor **BARRY WALSH**

PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Main Street, Ballyroan, Co. Laois

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For further information please contact

Grainne Roche Duff 087-6075037

grainne.rocheduff@alzheimer.ie

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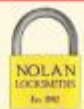
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Portlaoise Active Retirement meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun and activities, new members always welcome.

Monday 24th June; Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

Wednesday 26th; Breakup party in the Parish Centre at 3pm, as we will be taking holidays for July and August. A trip to the Theatre has been organised for August and €50 payment is due before we go on holidays. I wish all our members a nice break, hope the weather will be good and hope to see you all back in September, along with some new members.

Thursday 27th; Cards in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given. We have decided to keep on the cards for anyone who would like to come even if it's only for a chat. For further information please contact P.R.O. Sheila at 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre on Tuesday, 18th June:

Top Score: Tied; Kit Farrell & Paula McEvoy | **1st Lady:** S. Duff | **2nd Lady:** Tied; B. Kennedy & K. Kennedy

1st Gent: B. O'Keeffe | **2nd Gent:** P. J. Cahill | **1st Half:** Tied; C. Galvin & M O'Brien | **2nd Half:** A. M. Farrell

Raffle: 1st T. Jacob, 2nd B. Dollard, 3rd A. Brennan, 4th T. Mulhare, 5th M. Dunne, 6th M. Gowing, 7th B. Dollard | 8th P. Purcell.

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. NB; Age Friendly Whist in the Parish

Centre on Monday, June 24th commencing with Mass at 1pm followed by refreshments and whist, all welcome.

Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 25th June in St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm:

Jackpot on 46 numbers €1,480. Double number €1,510. Lotto €1,500.

Shanahoe Community Hall Progressive 25 Card Night:

Our last session before summer break took place Friday 7th June. We will break for July and August and come back on Friday 6th September. Results Friday 7th June - 1st Place Joe Cass and Mary Kelly, 2nd Place Paddy Walsh and Jimmy Mahoney. Congratulations to spot prize winners! Thanking everyone for their attendance and support, wishing everyone a good summer. See you all again in September.

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.

Beladd and surrounding areas Mass on the Green: Wednesday 26th June at 7pm.

Marian Avenue Annual Mass on the Green: This Monday 24th June at 7pm. All are welcome

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.





Who's in Your Boat?

Jesus and his disciples had been travelling all around the countryside and Jesus had been teaching and performing many miracles. When evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So they climbed into



a boat and set sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was very tired, so he was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a pillow. Suddenly, a fierce storm came up. High waves came up and the boat began to fill with water. The disciples were afraid and went and woke Jesus. "Teacher," they shouted, "don't you care that we are going to drown?"

When Jesus woke up, he spoke to the winds and the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly, the wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm. He turned to the disciples and said, "Why are you afraid? Do you not have faith?"

The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"



As we sail through life, things are going to happen. We will face many storms in our life. Perhaps we may face a serious illness or a family problem. We might make a wrong decision or fall in with the wrong crowd at school. When you face these problems on the sea of life, who do you want to have in the boat with you? I know who I want! I want Jesus. He can calm every storm. If you take Jesus with you day by day, he will be there with you in the storm.



Our Father, we know that each day we will face difficult situations. We are thankful that as we sail through life, you are always there to calm the storms. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PEACE! BE STILL!

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!"

Mark 4:39



HERE ARE SOME CLUES IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!

1. Jesus and his disciples got in a _____
2. The disciples were afraid that they were going to _____.
3. Jesus spoke to the wind and the _____
4. After Jesus spoke, the sea became _____

JESUS CALMS A

ANSWER: There was a fierce _____ on the sea.

BAOT

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WEAVS

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CMLA

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5

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1 2 3 4 5



Msgr. John received a lovely tribute as he stepped down from his duty as chairperson of Holy Family Junior and Senior schools, with a plaza in both schools now named in his honour.





Time to Think!

Charlie Chaplin's Wisdom

In many ways we have become desensitised to the horrors of violence, inequality and human suffering displayed on our screens every day. Politics has become increasingly polarised, not just in the United States but in many parts of Europe and throughout the world. Creating fear, is a key factor in the rise particularly of the far-right. It's extraordinary listening to potential world leaders, speak the language of hate. We have much to learn from our history, and yes history has a habit of repeating itself. I pray, that we as a people will always err on the side of compassion. I'd be grateful for the rich tradition of fairness and equality we continue to strive for.

The Great Dictator was Charlie Chaplin's first film with dialogue. Chaplin plays both a little Jewish barber, living in the ghetto, and Hynkel, the dictator ruler of Tomainia. In his autobiography Chaplin quotes himself as having said: "One doesn't have to be a Jew to be anti-Nazi. All one has to be is a normal decent human being." Chaplin and Hitler were born within a week of one another. "There was something uncanny in the resemblance between the Little Tramp and Adolf Hitler, representing opposite poles of humanity" writes Chaplin biographer David Robinson, reproducing an unsigned article from *The Spectator* dated 21st April 1939:

"Providence was in an ironical mood when, fifty years ago this week, it was ordained that Charles Chaplin and Adolf Hitler should make their entry into the world within four days of each other, each in his own way has expressed the ideas, sentiments, aspirations of the millions of struggling citizens ground between the upper and the lower millstone of society. Each has mirrored the same reality - the predicament of the "little man" in modern society. Each is a distorting mirror, the one for good, the other for untold evil." Chaplin spent many months drafting and re-writing the speech for the end of the film, a call for peace from the barber who has been mistaken for Hynkel. Many people criticised the speech, and thought it was superfluous to the film. Others found it uplifting. Regrettably Chaplin's words are as relevant for 2024 as they were in 1940.

"I'm sorry, but I don't want to be an emperor. That's not my business. I don't want to rule or conquer anyone. I should like to help everyone - if possible - Jew, Gentile - black man - white. We all want to help one another. Human beings are like that. We want to live by each other's happiness - not by each other's misery. We don't want to hate and despise one another. In this world there is room for everyone. And the good earth is rich and can provide for everyone. The way of life can be free and beautiful, but we have lost the way. Greed has poisoned men's souls, has barricaded the world with hate, has goose-stepped us into misery and bloodshed. We have developed speed, but we have shut ourselves in. Machinery that gives abundance has left us in want. Our knowledge has made us cynical. Our cleverness, hard and unkind. We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery we need humanity. More than cleverness we need kindness and gentleness. Without these qualities, life will be violent, and all will be lost...



The aeroplane and the radio have brought us closer together. The very nature of these inventions cries out for the goodness in men - cries out for universal brotherhood - for the unity of us all. Even now my voice is reaching millions throughout the world - millions of despairing men, women, and little children - victims of a system that makes men torture and imprison innocent people. To those who can hear me, I say - do not despair. The misery that is now upon us is but the passing of greed - the bitterness of men who fear the way of human progress. The hate of men will pass, and dictators die, and the power they took from the people will return to the people. And so long as men die, liberty will never perish. Soldiers! don't give yourselves to brutes - men who despise you - enslave you - who regiment your lives - tell you what to do - what to think and what to feel! Who drill you - diet you - treat you like cattle, use you as cannon fodder. Don't give yourselves to these unnatural men - machine men with machine minds and machine hearts! You are not machines! You are not cattle! You are men! You have the love of humanity in your hearts! You don't hate! Only the unloved hate - the unloved and the unnatural! Soldiers! Don't fight for slavery! Fight for liberty!

In the 17th Chapter of St. Luke, it is written: "the Kingdom of God is within man" - not one man nor a group of men, but in all men! In you! You, the people have the power - the power to create machines. The power to create happiness! You, the people, have the power to make this life free and beautiful, to make this life a wonderful adventure. Then - in the name of democracy - let us use that power - let us all unite. Let us fight for a new world - a decent world that will give men a chance to work - that will give youth a future and old age a security. By the promise of these things, brutes have risen to power. But they lie! They do not fulfil that promise. They never will! Dictators free themselves but they enslave the people! Now let us fight to fulfil that promise! Let us fight to free the world - to do away with national barriers - to do away with greed, with hate and intolerance. Let us fight for a world of reason, a world where science and progress will lead to all men's happiness. Soldiers! in the name of democracy, let us all unite!

Final speech from The Great Dictator

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 32,600 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

Golden Jubilee for Msgr. John Byrne



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Michael McEvoy
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Maura Morrin
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Mary Healy
Clonkeen



Billy (William) Lacey
Baunmor, Ballinakill

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL GING**

Green Road, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 28th June 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Friday 28th June at 10am.

Mick

*The moment that you died, my heart was
torn in two, one side filled with heartache,
the other died with you.*

*I often lie awake at night, when the world is fast asleep,
And take a walk down memory lane, with tears upon my
cheeks, remembering you is easy, I do it every day, but missing
you is heartache that never goes away.*

*I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain,
Until the joyous day arrives, that we will meet again.*

Love Breda

Dad

*We're missing you a little more each time we hear your name,
we've cried so many tears, yet our hearts are broken just the
same.*

*We miss our times together, things in common we could
share, but nothing fills the emptiness, now you're no longer
there.*

*We've so many precious memories to last our whole life
through, each one of them reminders, of how much we're
missing you.*

Love from Yvonne, Padraig, John and Antoinette

Grandad

*It's been the hardest thing to lose you, you meant so much to
us, but you are in our hearts Grandad, and that's where you'll
always be.*

*We know that Heaven called you, but we wish you could have
stayed, at least the memories we have of you, they will never
fade.*

*We did not want to lose you, but you did not go alone, because
a part of us went with you, when Heaven called you home.*

So just remember one thing, we are not apart,

You're with us in our memories, and in our broken hearts.

**Love you forever Grandad, from Jack, Aaron, Jeremy,
Michael, Patrick, Sean, Owen, Alex, Cian, Oscar & Hannah.**

Rest in Peace Michael

**In Loving Memory of
P.J. O'CONNOR**

3 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

35th Anniversary occurred 21st June 2024



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

Always loved and remembered by his
sisters and brothers, daughters,
grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
extended family and friends.

May P.J. Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of My Beautiful Daughter

SAMANTHA MOORE

2 Triogue Manor, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurred 21st June 2024.



*I used to feel so broken hearted,
Without you by my side,
But now I know we're not apart,
I carry you inside.*

*Thinking of you every hour of
every day.*

Truly loved forever, your Mam x

Rest in Peace Samantha

In Loving Memory of MARY (Maisie) DOLLARD

32 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

14th Anniversary occurs 20th June 2024.



*Life is a beautiful memory,
Death is a silent grief,
You sleep now in God's beautiful
garden, in sunshine and
perfect peace.*

*We miss you oh so very much,
But trust that God knew best,*

*He let us have you for many years,
And then gently let you rest.*

*Always in our hearts and never forgotten
by your loving family.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise, this
Saturday 22nd June at 6.30pm.

Rest in Peace Maisie

Birthday Remembrance

In Loving Memory of

CHRISTINE (Diana) ADAMS

1st Birthday away from Home occurred 19th June.



*We hope you have a party
up there, with balloons we
sent to you, presents to
open from the angels and
cake with some candles too.*

*We will sing you Happy
Birthday but we try not to
shed a tear, as this should
be a happy day, we will
celebrate each year.*

*Sadly missed by your loving husband Dickie,
daughters Elizabeth & Julie, sons Richie, Joseph
& Paul, grandchildren Lauren, Aaron,
Donnacha, Jessica, Carina & Sean, sons-in-law
Raymond & Tony, daughter-in-law Catherine.*

Rest in Peace Christine

In Loving Memory of NUALA McNAMARA

née Deevy

Ross, Ballyfin, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs Tuesday 25th June 2024



*June comes with sad regret,
Your departure from us we won't
forget,*

*You're missed in the morning of every
day, missed in the evening as light
fades away.*

Anniversary Mass for Nuala will be
celebrated in St. Fintan's Church,
Ballyfin, **Sunday 23rd June at 10am.**

*Loved and always remembered by Dan and family -
Mary, Liam & Una, Marguerite & John, John, Pauline
& Eddie and her loving grandchildren xxxxx*

May Nuala Rest in Eternal Peace



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In Loving Memory of BRENDAN O'BRIEN

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurred 20th June 2024



*No words can tell, no tears express,
The love, the loss, the emptiness,
You are not just a memory or part of the past,
You are ours to remember as long as life lasts.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your
loving family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Brendan

In Loving Memory of

JOE CUNNEEN

Rathleague



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 30th June at 12.30pm.

Sadly missed by his wife Margaret, sons David and Stephen, daughter Mary, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and extended family.

Rest in Peace Joe

In Loving Memory of

A loving Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather

JAMES LAWLESS

82 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

10th Anniversary occurs 23rd June 2024.



*They say there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
Neither time or reason will
change the way we feel.
Gone are the days we used
to share, but in our hearts
you will always remain,
The gates of memories will
never close,*

We miss you more than anyone knows.

We love and miss you everyday.

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

Rest in Peace Jim

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of

HARRIET WHELAN *née* Dempsey

Mosse Lane, Dublin Road, Portlaoise
and reposing in Portarlinton



The family of Harriet Whelan, beloved sister of Patricia, Theresa, loving brother Paddy, late brother Leo and sister Phyllis, would like to thank most sincerely all those who offered gifts and condolences on the sad loss of Harriet.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

Our deepest unfinished sympathy; Louise, Vincent, Thomas, Pietro, Julie, Delores, Geraldine and Eric.

Rest in Peace Harriet

*Thus says the Lord, the God of your ancestor David:
I have heard your prayer,
I have seen your tears;
indeed, I will heal you. 2 Kings 20:5*



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Contact: Margaret: 087 2312066 Oonagh: 086 1736181

Email us: ruachministry5@gmail.com

These retreats are strictly residential:
arrive Tuesday 9:00am, leave Thursday 5:00pm.

www.ruachministry.com
Ruach Ministry Portlaoise

In Loving Memory of

Our Dearest Mam and Grandmother

JANE McEVOY

22 Rossvale, Portlaoise.

*Anniversary occurred 21st June.
Birthday Remembrance; 28th June.*



*Quickly and quietly came the call,
Without farewell you left us all,
A sudden call from God on high,*

*You had no chance to say goodbye,
Without farewell you fell asleep,
But memories of you we will always keep.*

*Always love you Mam and Dad
Never forgotten by your loving family.*

Rest in Peace Jane

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
DAVID BROWN

Heathfields, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.



Carmel, James, Conor and Sarah along with the extended Brown and Maloney families would like to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of support shown to us since David's tragic death last Easter Sunday.

To our wonderful friends, neighbours, work colleagues and so many others who went above and beyond looking after us over a very difficult few days and weeks. We are indebted to you all.

Thank you to everyone who called to the house and/or attended David's funeral. Many of you travelled long distances just to be here for us. We were so humbled by this. The large crowds that gathered around us over the period of David's wake and funeral were a true testament to the high esteem in which David was held and the kindness and goodness of people.

Our deepest gratitude to the Gardai, Fire Service, Air Ambulance personnel and the Paramedics and those who attended the scene of the accident as well as Monsignor John Byrne PP and Fr. Jim O'Connell. Thank you also to Portlaoise GAA, the wider GAA Family, and the local schools and community of Portlaoise and environs who rallied around us. We would also like to thank the Priests of Portlaoise Parish, Fr. Gerard Breen, PP and Fr. David Vard, Adm as well as the staff of the Parish Centre, Matthew Keegan and David Goode and Brendan and Adrian Dunne.

We would also like to thank all those involved in ensuring David's Requiem Mass was so fittingly solemn including Aisling Walsh and James O'Connor as well as the altar servers and Sister Sacristans. Thanks also to the many clubs, and David's school friends and teachers as well as James' colleagues in the Fire Service who came together with others to form a remarkable guard of honour on the way to the Church and Cemetery.

Lastly but by no means least we would like to thank David's friends who have been so kind to us since David died - in various but so many thoughtful ways.

The kindness and thoughtfulness of everyone has given us some light in our darkest days.

Rest in Peace David



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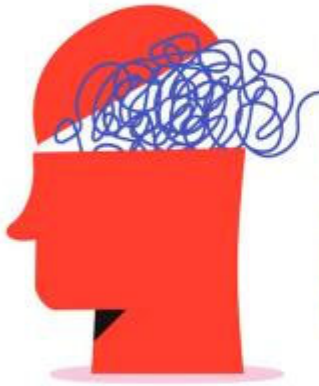
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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
20th June 2024

19

23

24

28

No €18,000 Jackpot Winner

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MATCH 3s €1,000

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Sara Callan

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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: @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

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PARISH SHOP

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TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 38:1, 8-11 | Psalm 106: 23-26, 28-31

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 | Mark 4:35-41

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*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

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- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
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