

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**

**link
up**

1st December 2024

First Sunday of Advent

A Blessing Prayer

Loving God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light this wreath.

May it be a sign of hope for us
as we prepare for your coming
and may it turn our hearts to you
in the days ahead.

Give us and the world your peace and love
as we wait in joyful hope.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus!



The Advent Wreath


Being prepared by Sr. Julie
assisted (sort of!) by the
P.P.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

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Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Hope



Saving Souls

A couple of years ago, Martin Lewis, the 'money saving expert' made a video that went viral. He called on everyone to make a pact not to spend money on gifts that were overpriced or unnecessary.

The point was to take the burden from other people who might be embarrassed into buying an expensive gift back, and to release poorer families from buying presents that would put them into debt. The idea was to side step the commercialism of Christmas. As Christians this message goes much deeper. Side stepping the commercialism of Christmas obviously isn't about saving money, it's about saving souls.

The trouble with Advent is that Christmas comes at the end. We know that Advent is a time for taking stock, but with Christmas just around the corner, we're far too busy with shopping lists to think about the state of our souls.

It seems obvious that we should spend our lives in preparation for the final judgement day, but it is all too easy to take our eye off the ball. Life heaps demands on us day in and day out. We spend each and every day taking the children to school, going to work, cleaning the house, shopping, cooking, leaning, fixing the car and paying the bills. At this time of year in particular it is easy to get swamped in the things that the TV adverts convince us we must do before Christmas. We end up feeling trapped and unable to see the bigger picture. All of a sudden it's too late. We never get to do the things we know we should have done. The Gospel paints a frightening picture of the end of the world, but it is not meant to terrify us. Rather, the signs of the second coming are there to liberate us. Advent is a time of waiting and of looking forward. We are looking forward not just to Christmas but to the second coming of Jesus. The signs of the second coming are there to liberate us from the material preparations of Christmas and the other things that weigh us down. We are invited to take a step back from our fraught lives and take a long-term view. It would be a pity to get to the other side of Christmas only to realise that a host of fake Santa Clauses had distracted us from contemplating the real direction of our lives.



THE WREATH

Today we light the first of our Advent candles. The traditional use of Advent candles originated in eastern Germany prior to the Reformation. There are three purple candles and one pink candle. Purple for the royalty of the coming **King** the pink candle is the third candle to be lit on what is call **Gaudate Sunday** and represents '**joy**'. The gradual lighting of the four candles symbolises the coming **Light** into the world. The wreath itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represent everlasting life.

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

Monday — Thursday: 7.30am & 10am
Friday (First Friday): 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 6.30pm Mass.

Friday (First Friday)
Eucharistic Adoration
Exposition at 6pm
Benediction at 7pm
followed by Mass at 7.30pm



Communion Calls

The priests of the parish will attend their communion rounds during the week. If anyone would like to receive a house call on the First Friday of each month, kindly contact the Parish Office on 0578621142.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Thomas William O'Reilly-Kennedy, Lakeglen

Éabha Grace Dowling, Dunamaise

Who were baptised last weekend.

A Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,

Give us hope as we wait

For your coming again.

When we are tempted

to be grateful to have found you

While others are lost,

Send us out into the darkness

In search of those who need you most.

Amen.



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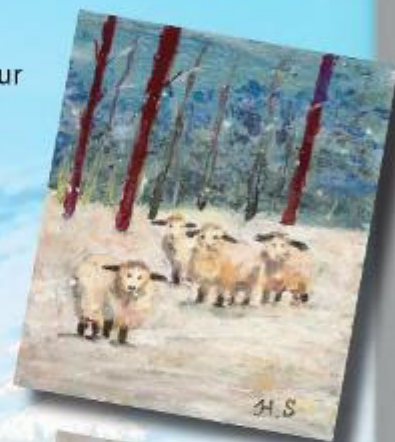
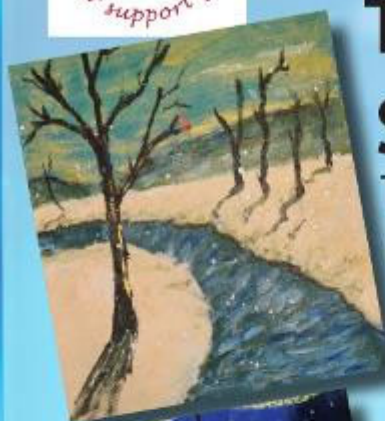
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11am-4pm

Sunday 8th Dec. 2pm-4:30pm

Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th Dec.

11am-4pm

Sunday 15th Dec. 2pm-4:30pm



The deadline for all inclusions for the Christmas Link up and the first Link up of 2025 is
Tuesday 10th December 2024.
Any Submissions after this may not be considered.

Alanon Family Group for family, friends or anyone affected by someone struggling with alcoholism. Alanon meeting every Thursday night at 8pm in Portlaoise. For further info. contact; 086-8706017.

FREE Line Dancing Class Two lessons left in this FREE series of line dancing with thanks to Laois Sports Partnership...Monday Dec 2nd and Monday Dec 9th in St.Mary's Hall, Dublin Rd. Portlaoise at 11a.m. Take time to refresh body, soul and mind. All are welcome. Maureen.0876482038.

Christmas at Portlaoise Library Christmas Concert-Portlaoise Library welcomes the young students from the Richard Mansworth Stage School to present a variety of well-known Christmas carols and songs taking place on **Saturday, 14th December at 11am.** All are welcome.

Christmas Coffee Morning-Portlaoise Library Christmas coffee morning-**Thursday, 19th December 11am.** Come and join us and the students from the Holy Family School Portlaoise who will perform a variety of well-known Christmas carols. All are welcome.

Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre Tuesday, 19th November

Top score: Liam, McCarthney|1st Lady: Bernie Cahill |2nd Lady: Kit Farrell |1st Gent: Christy Fitzpatrick
2nd Gent: Tom Jacob | 1st Half: Sadie Chester| 2nd Half: Margaret Flanagan | Raffle: 1st Ann O'Dowd|
2nd Mary Delaney| 3rd Paul Kavanagh | 4th Austin Kavanagh |5th May Conroy | 6th Billy O'Keefe.

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

Portlaoise Active Retirement meets every Wednesday afternoon in the parish Centre for afternoon of friendship fun and activities. New members always welcome.

Monday December the 2nd bowls in St. Mary's sports hall 2- 4 pm New members always welcome tuition given

Wednesday Dec 4th sing along with Caroline 3pm New members always welcome

Thursday December 5th Cards in Sue Ryder centre Kilminchy at 3pm New members always welcome tuition given

For further information please contact pro **Sheila at 0876204617**

Bridge Club Looking for new bridge players to play bridge in the Laois Enterprise Office. All skill levels welcome, contact 087-0929898 for more information.

Christmas Concert Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix will hold their Christmas Concert on **Dec 11th and 12th.** The children have been practising their lines and songs and are very excited to welcome you to come and see them. The matinee will be held on **Wed Dec 11th at 11am.** The evening show will be on **Thurs 12th at 7pm.** Tickets are €8, students €6 and preschool children will be Free of Charge.. They can be purchased in advance at the office or at the door on the night. The Parent's Association will be running a raffle and tickets will also be available for the Monster Hamper Draw on the night.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

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

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

Day of reflection, Including First Saturday Fatima Devotions Emmanuel House, Clonfert Co.Galway. Saturday December 7th at 11.00AM. Talks; Confessions; Music; Healing Service; Holy Mass. Led by Eddie Stones and Team. Please bring a packed lunch.

Reach out in forgiveness and thanks this Christmas; Judy, Katherine and Bernadette Grace invite the family and friends of our late brother Frankie Grace, Cullenagh, Portlaoise who died tragically on June 10th 2012 to this special mass at Christmas time on Sunday 15th December at 9.30 a.m. in Ballyroan Church.

On this day. Mend a quarrel. Search out a forgotten friend.

Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.

Write a love letter. Share some treasures. Give a soft answer. Gladden the heart of a child.

Forgive an enemy. Listen. Find the time. Apologise if you were wrong. Forgo a grudge.

Manifest in your loyalty in a word or deed.

Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Laugh a little more and be sillier in front of others.

AppreciateBe kind... Be gentle. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust.

Worship God. Tell someone you love them... tell them again... and again...and again.



Night Vigil to Knock
Saturday 7th December,
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Maura 087-1210263/ Helena 087-9611331.
Bus departing Lyster Square 7:30pm 7th December



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14th Dec: Dermot & Irene Ring

21st Dec: Alistair Fingleton

28th Dec: Glen & Flynn

04th Jan: Muriel & Fran

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MONSTER Christmas Bingo.
Sunday 15th December @ 3pm.



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like to thank everybody who volunteers and
gives their time to help us.

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**Rosary at the Grotto
will be held on the
first Friday of
December 6/12/24 at 8pm.
Day of Obligation
Rosary to
celebrate the Conception of our
Blessed
Virgin Mary
Monday 9/12/24 8pm.**



On Sunday, December 8th

The Blessing of the new outdoor
crib at the grotto of The Heath
church will take place after 9.30
Mass. The Heath N.S will sing some
Christmas carols. All very
welcome to this great occasion.



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HANDING ON
THE FAITH



Jesus is coming again!



Christmas is coming soon. It is easy to tell. We see the signs all around us. What are the signs? We see Christmas decorations in the stores and on houses, we hear Christmas songs on the radio, we see ads on television and in the newspapers. What if we didn't have all of these things to remind us that Christmas is coming? How would we know? I guess we would just have to look at the calendar.

Two thousand years ago, there was no television or radio. There were no newspaper ads announcing that a child would be born and that he would be the Saviour of the world. When Jesus was born, very few people even knew about it, but it was an event which God had promised and which had been

foretold by prophets many years before. Many people had been looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, they just didn't know exactly when he was coming.

This Sunday marks the beginning of a very special season called Advent. Do you know what Advent means? The dictionary says that advent is "the coming of something very important." What is it? Is it Christmas? Yes, we are looking forward to that, but we are also looking forward to the coming of another very important event. The return of Jesus!

Jesus promised to come again. You won't hear much about it on the television or radio and you won't read much about it in the newspapers, but he promised he would return and we believe it! We look forward to it just as people two thousand years ago looked forward the coming Messiah. We don't know exactly when he will come, it isn't marked on the calendar, but we are watching and waiting.

As we look prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour, let's also be sure we are prepared for the day that he will come again.



Our Prayer

Dear Father, we thank you for this special time of year and what it means to us. We thank you for keeping your promise to send a Saviour - and we thank you for the promise that he will come again.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Today is the
First Sunday of
Advent also
known as
**THE SUNDAY
OF HOPE**

We light one
purple candle
today.

Did you see the
Advent Wreath
on the Altar
today?



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent



December

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Light one purple candle on the Advent Wreath. 	2 Start this week by saying your prayers every morning and evening. 	3 Is there something you could donate to St. Vincent de Paul? 	4 Be kind to the younger children in the playground. 	5 Invite someone who has been left out, to play with you. 	6 Try and go to Mass today. 	7 Make an ornament for your Christmas. 
8 Light two purple candles on the Advent Wreath. 	9 Thank God for all the good things in your life. 	10 Do something nice for your teacher. 	11 Smile at everyone, you meet today. 	12 Remember to say 'Grace before Meals'. 	13 Have you sent your letter to Santa? 	14 Help the Homeless, donate something small to P.A.T.H 
15 Light three Purple candles and one pink candle on the Advent wreath. 	16 Make Christmas Cards for your friends! 	17 Forgive someone who has hurt your feelings. 	18 Sing some Christmas Carols. 	19 Visit the church to see the crib and ask for help to light a candle. 	20 Read a Christmas Story. 	21 Pray for your grandparents today. 
22 Help, without being asked! 	23 Help Mummy and Daddy to prepare for Christmas. 	24 Say a prayer for all who are expecting a new baby at this time. 	25 Welcome Baby Jesus! A child is born. 	26 Surprise your Mam or Dad by making breakfast for them. 	27 Draw a picture of your. 	28 Give someone a hug. 
29 Bring the baby Jesus from your crib to Mass this weekend to be blessed. 	30 Compliment Yourself! 	31 Help around the house today. 				





Time to Think!

The gift of generosity

It's wonderful these days to see the brightness of Christmas lights decorating our streets, shops and homes. In the darkest days of the year, we long for the light. A recent debate in Dublin concerning the name Christmas or just a winter holiday, focused on the context of why we celebrate this important moment every year. Christmas points us to Christ; Jesus is the reason for the season. It is easy for all of us to forget the spiritual in a growing secular society. However, the more we nourish our spiritual selves the greater God's grace anoints us with hope joy peace and Wellness. These days of preparation are also an opportunity for self-renewal. Christ invites us to indulge in his grace and be filled with the powerful spirit that comes from his presence in our lives.

Generosity is a wonderful gift. To have a big heart is a blessing, that is to be open and compassionate in love to the needs of others. Generosity is contagious and beneficial. Fact...The more we give the more we receive. Generosity is measured in our ability to engage and be present to the needs of others. It is also very important to be generous to ourselves. The more I care for myself the greater I can care for others... Christmas is a celebration of generosity. God's love is so overwhelming that he embraced our human vulnerability and became one of us. A birth, that evoked generosity from shepherds to wise men. May we all be blessed with generous hearts this Christmas.

A charming story is told of Poinsettia, a poor Mexican girl, who had no gift to present to the baby Jesus in his crib, as was customary on Christmas Eve. As Poinsettia walked slowly to the chapel with her friends and family her heart was full of sadness rather than joy. An angel appeared to the little girl and spoke to her "I AM SURE THAT EVEN THE HUMBLEST GIFT, IF GIVEN IN LOVE, WILL BE ACCEPTABLE IN HIS EYES".

Not knowing what to do, the little girl knelt at the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at these insignificant weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. Poinsettia fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel. As she approached the crib she remembered the angel's words. She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the feet of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant crimson red, all who saw them were certain that they had seen a miracle right before their eyes. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the Flores de Buena, Flower of the Holy Night. Known by all of us for its Christmas colour, called the Poinsettia.

This is a powerful story of Christian hope in a time of darkness and uncertainty. And yet even where one can be overwhelmed and indeed choked by the overgrowing destructive weeds regarding so many structures in our society, the Poinsettia offers us hope. This is a time of cleansing, a time for renewal, a time for change. Jesus born in great poverty to a family placed on the margins is our source of new life, renewal, hope and confidence. Jesus feels no

doubt the immense pain and suffering that is felt in the hearts of so many good people at this time. He dwells in our hearts that may be disillusioned.

The gift of Christmas is to indulge in a bright light that is so much brighter than any darkness. There are no limits when it comes to the kingdom of Jesus Christ. There are no cutbacks in the unconditional love Jesus has for us all. The new life of Jesus Christ is not something that just once happened but a promise that needs to be realised in all our lives. This is the time. It is the weeds of hurt and brokenness, disillusionment and anger that we place at the foot of our Savior this Christmas. His Presence will transform and allow us to begin again.

The Little Drummer Boy is one of my favourite Christmas songs, largely because I see myself in this lad. The beauty of the story is that God doesn't see us this way. He simply asks us to give Him our all, and in the little drummer boy's case, it's a song. And you know what? It's a perfect gift. God knows exactly what we're able to offer, and He wants us to use our talents to praise and honour Him. That's exactly what this little drummer boy does. This song is meant for young children, but reading the words of this classic Christmas song is sure to get anyone into the Christmas spirit.

A Prayer for Christmas Blessing

God grant you lightness in your step,

A smile on every face you meet,

Loved ones gathered at your hearth,

And at your door, good friends to greet

A holy hymn upon your lips,

A window candle burning bright

And may the Good Lord bless your heart

And come to dwell here Christmas night.

May health of body and peace of mind be our loved one's greatest gifts this Christmas....



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 33,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



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



Noel Colbert
Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
& formerly
Dr. Murphy Place



Mary Tobin
Elmlawn,
Portlaoise



Anne Prakash
Patrick Street,
Mountrath
& formerly
St. Johns Square



Aaron Cripps
Oakleaf Place,
Portlaoise



Assumpta Kelly
Hawthorn Drive,
Portlaoise

**MAY THEY
REST IN PEACE**

*If we have **died** with him
then we shall **live** with him
Timothy 2:11*



**In Loving Memory of
RICHARD BOOTH**



Killeen, Mountmellick.
5th Anniversary occurs 11th December 2024



Also remembering his sister
JACINTA MOORE
née Booth
Australia and Ballyduff,
Stradbally
whose 4th Anniversary
occurs 5th December.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of
the Assumption, the Heath, on
Sunday 8th December at 9:30am.

*Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.
May They Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of
NOREEN CONROY**



11 Roselawn, Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary occurred 30th November 2024



Anniversary Mass was celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
Saturday 30th November, 6.30pm.

Remembering also at this time
Noreen's father Michael and Mother
Hannah, and also Stephen Conroy,
Marian Avenue.

**From John, Kathy, Jennifer and
Jack Conroy and Hazel and grandchildren
Robyn & J. J & Aoife**

James O' Donovan, Oola, Limerick
(27th November)

His wife Kathleen and Kathleen's sister Bríd
Herbert and her brother Bob Nash.

From Kathy, John, James, Margaret and Willie.

May They Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
David Harney**



20 Years Away from home.

Whose 20th anniversary
occurred 28th November 2024.



*Sadly missed by your loving wife Cecilia,
your daughters Gillian, Melissa and son
David. Your grandsons P.J, Dion, Troy
and Tylor.*

Always in our hearts, never forgotten.

May He Rest In Peace

In Loving Memory of
JIM GORMAN

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

17th Anniversary occurred 27th November 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 1st December at 12:30pm.

*We think of you every day,
You are in our hearts forever,
For nothing loved is ever lost and you were
loved so much.*

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

May Jim Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Willard) DOWNEY

Formerly 8 Triogue Place, Portlaoise.

*7th Anniversary occurs
4th December 2024*

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

*Thinking of you always,
your good friend Andy.*



Rest in Peace Bill

In Loving Memory of
PAT DWYER

20 Grenville, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurred 28th November 2024



*Gone are the days we used to share
But in our hearts you are always there.
The gates of memory will never close.
We miss you more than anybody knows.
With tender love and deep regret,
We who loved you will never forget.*

*Fondly remembered always by
Joan, Martina, Paul, Isabel,
extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Pat

In Loving Memory of
JOHN BRENNAN

Rathleague, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurred Thursday 28th November 2024



*Think of him as living in the hearts
of those he touched,*

*For nothing loved is ever lost,
And he was loved so very much.*

*Sadly missed and always
remembered by his loving
children, grandchildren, family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Dad

In Loving Memory of

A Special Mum and Gran

ALICE HILLIARD

63 Marian Avenue Portlaoise. 11th year away from home.

And her Husband JIMMY HILLIARD

On his 5th Birthday away from home.



*Our love is forever and
although we are apart,
Our love only grows stronger,
deep within our hearts.*

*Sadly missed by her son
Noel, daughter Elizabeth,
son-in-law Diarmuid, grandchildren Faith, Brooke, Jennifer,
Nicole, Bernard, Rebecca and their partners,
great-grandchildren and Alice's brother Andrew.*

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
Anthony Walsh

The Heath

1st Anniversary occurs 5th December 2024



*In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true,
There is not a day dear Anthony,
That we do not think of you.*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Saturday, 7th December at 6.30pm*

*Sadly missed by his wife Irene, daughters Ellen, Laura and
son Tony.*

Always in our hearts and never forgotten.

Rest In Peace Anthony

In Loving Memory of
ANTHONY WALSH

The Heath

1st Anniversary occurs 5th December 2024



*Anthony of all the gifts in life however
great or small,
To have you as my son was the greatest
gift of all.*

Your loving Mother Margaret.

*Anthony you had a smile for all, a heart
of gold, one of the best this world could
ever hold, never selfish, always kind.*

*A special place within our hearts will
always be kept for you.*

*Love always Joseph, Mary, Tina, Attracta, Patricia,
Colette and families.*

Rest in Peace Anthony

*You are the
Light
of the World*



**To our Angel in
Heaven**

Ballyroan

1st birthday in heaven occurred
30th November 2024



I left you a little white feather,
I placed it right there in your way,
I wrapped it in love,
With a message to let you know,
You'll be okay.

I drew you a colourful rainbow,
It followed your car for a while,
I made it a beautiful rainbow,

I hoped it would show me your smile,
I flew down a beautiful Robin,

It landed right there on your ledge,

I prayed he would give you the strength,
To push yourself back from the edge,

I try everyday to remind you that I never did go away.

The feathers, the rainbows, the robin;
Are my way of trying to stay

Happy 1st heavenly birthday Baby James.

We miss you everyday

Love,

**Mammy, Daddy, Anto, TJ, Granny, Grandad &
all your aunts & uncles.**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
In Loving Memory of
Nancy Ruschitzko**



The family of the late Nancy
Ruschitzko (néé Dundon)
would like to thank most
sincerely all those who
sympathised with them on the
sad loss of their mother, who
passed away in January 2024
in Limerick, age 92.

Nancy grew up in
Millview Portlaoise, married
Bill Ruschitzko (RIP) and lived
on the Borris Road and Dublin
Road Portlaoise, before
relocating to Limerick in
1976.



The family would like to offer
our heartfelt thanks to her
many friends, neighbours,

former work colleagues in Irish Worsted Mills,
friends and co-founders from Portlaoise Credit
Union and extended family members she had
from Portlaoise and Mountmellick. Many of
whom travelled and attended her funeral service
and sent their condolences which were a great
support to the family.

A special thank you to the staff of Home Care
Instead and palliative care team of Milford Care
Centre who took such great care of Nancy.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone
individually, please accept this acknowledgement
as an expression of our heartfelt appreciation
and gratitude to all, from Nancy's four children
Frank, Mark, Tina and Stephen.

May Nancy's gentle soul

Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PJ WALSH**

Borris Road, Portlaoise

3rd Anniversary occurs 2nd December 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 7th December at 6.30pm.

*You have gone no further from us than
to God and God is very near.
May Heaven be a place for you where
you can dig and plant flowers of the
humblest kind and those of the
rarest scent.*

**Remembered and missed by your sisters Olive,
Mary and Patricia. Nieces, nephews, extended
family, friends and neighbours.**

Rest in Peace

**In Memory of
PADDY and MARY DEMPSEY**

The Heath

Anniversaries occur at this time.
A special day we cannot share,
So our gift to you must be a
prayer.

By Liam C

May Mary and

Daddy Rest in Peace



*If anyone loves me he
will keep my word and
my Father will love him*

John 14:23

Hope

The First
Sunday of
Advent

The people walking in
darkness have seen a great
light; on those living in the
land of deep darkness, a
light has dawned.

ISAIAH 9:2-6



Love your neighbour
as yourself

MATTHEW 22:39



Peace I bequeth to you,
my own peace I give you

John 14:27



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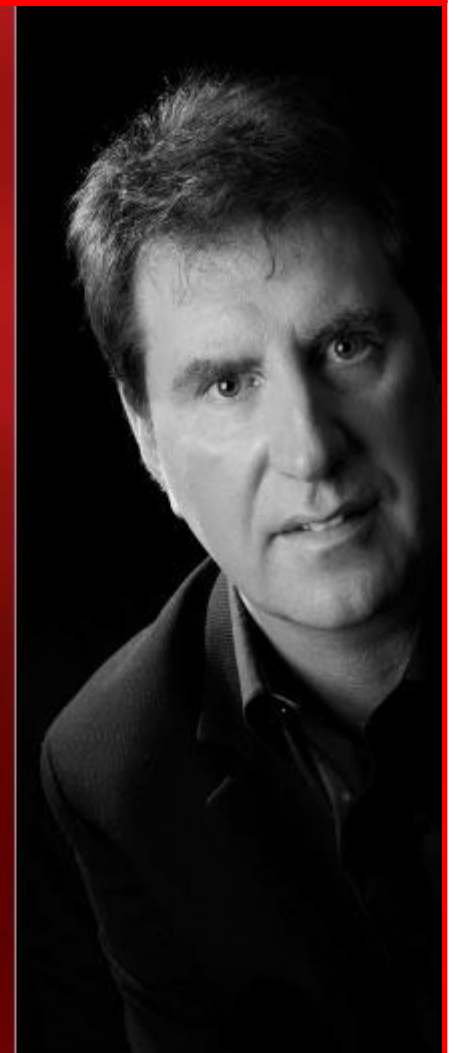
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St Vincent de Paul Portlaoise are preparing for an extremely busy period in the run up to Christmas.

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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 07th of December and Sunday 08th of December 2024

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

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Portlaoise Parish



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and X.

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*"There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth
nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its
waves." Today's Gospel*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jeremiah 33:14-16 | Psalm 24:4-5.8-9.10.14
Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 | Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

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We have traditionally depended on the passing of collection baskets at Sunday Masses for support but have not reintroduced them since Covid. **Thank you** to the many who have found new ways to support the Parish. The generosity of so many means we **continue to** be well supported and our liturgies are not interrupted - Please find your way to contribute.

- * Making your offering in the boxes at the entrances
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Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D

THANK YOU



Clergy of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
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Outside office hours
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