

Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Advent

20th December 2015

Luke 1:39-45

No 1526



***“If only I could become like one of them,
then I could save them”***



There was a Scottish farmer who didn't believe in the Christmas story. The idea that God would become a man was absurd. His wife, however, was a devout believer and raised their children in her faith. The farmer sometimes gave her a hard time, mocking her faith and belief in the incarnation of God in the baby of Bethlehem: "It's all nonsense," he said. "Why would God lower himself to become a human like us? It's such a ridiculous story.

One snowy Sunday evening his wife took the children to church while the farmer relaxed at home. After they had left, the weather deteriorated into a blinding snowstorm. Then he heard a loud thump against the window. Then another thump! He ventured outside to see what was happening. There in the yard was the strangest sight: a flock of geese! They had been migrating south but had got disorientated by the storm. They were stranded on his farm, unable to fly or to see their way.

The farmer had compassion on them. He wanted to help them and realised his barn would give them shelter for the night. He opened the barn doors and stood back, hoping they would make their way in. But they didn't realise it would be shelter for them. So he tried to shoo the geese in, but they ran in all directions. Perplexed, he got some bread and made a trail to the barn door. But they still didn't catch on. Nothing he could do would get them into the warmth and shelter of the barn.

Feeling totally frustrated, exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me? Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm? How can I possibly get them to follow me?"

He thought for a moment and then realised that they would not follow a human. He said to himself, "How can I possibly save them? The only way would be for me to become a goose. If only I could become like one of them. Then I could save them. They would follow me and I would lead them to safety."

At that moment, the church bell in the village rang out. The farmer stopped and realised what he had said. The words reverberated in his head. "If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them." Now he understood why God sent his only Son to be with us, one of us. He fell to his knees in the snow and worshipped him.



Thought for the Week.....

***The people who make a difference
are not the ones with the credentials,
but the ones with the concern.***

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

PRIEST ON DUTY: 085 708 8407

PARISH WEBSITE: www.naasparish.ie

NAAS AND SALLINS PARISH OFFICE Tel 879730 Fax 894287

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm

Naas eMail naasparishoffice@gmail.com

Sallins eMail sallinsparishoffice@gmail.com

SACRISTY OUR LADY AND ST DAVID: Tel 856925

BALLYCANE OFFICE AND SACRISTY : Tel 895629

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm

PARISH TEAM

FR. JOHN BRICKLEY Parochial House 897703

FR. LIAM MORGAN Curates House 949576

FR. JOE O'NEILL Sundays well 898866

DN. FERGAL O'NEILL Parish Deacon 086 3816133

MS. MAIREAD D'ARCY Pastoral Assistant 897134

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Naas: Andrew Fagan and Geraldine Faherty

Two Mile House: Anita Comer Julian

Sallins: Ann Moran.

They can be contacted through the Parish Office,
Sallins Road, Naas. Phone 045 879730

CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST. DAVID , SALLINS ROAD

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAYS: Mon-Fri 7.30am and 10am , Sat 10am

CHURCH OF THE IRISH MARTYRS, BALLYCANE

SUNDAYS: Sat Vigil 6pm Sun 9am, 11am and 6pm

WEEKDAYS: Mon, Wed and Fri 7.30pm

CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND THE GUARDIAN ANGELS, SALLINS

SUNDAYS: Sat Vigil 7.30pm Sun 10.30am, 12noon

WEEKDAYS: Tues and Fri 10am

CHURCH OF ST. PETER, TWO MILE HOUSE

SUNDAYS: Sat Vigil 6.30pm Sun 10am and 12noon

WEEKDAYS: Friday 7pm

SUNDAYS: 11am

CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST. DAVID , SALLINS ROAD

Every First Friday before and after the 10am Mass

***THOSE WHO DIE IN GRACE GO BUT TO GOD
AND GOD IS VERY NEAR"***

Naas:

Mary Maguire, Monread Heights

Helen McKeown, formerly of Woodlands



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

RECENT BAPTISMS

Naas:

Tom Fitzgerald, The Paddocks

Connor Maximus Costello Tyrrell, Castlefen

Jack Brian Buckley, Sallins Park

Rex George Murphy, Leicestershire

Rosie McLaughlin, Sallins Pier

Harry Liam Kennedy, Castlesize Drive

Two Mile House:

Ava Rose McDonnell, Clonsilla

For those requesting the Sacrament of Baptism two weeks notice is required. For further details of Baptisms in Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House Parish website at www.naasparish.ie/sacraments/baptism



NAAS PARISH NEWS

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT - *'The Catholic Parish of Naas, in Communion with Christ and with one another and guided by the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, endeavours to welcome, serve and nourish the whole community.'*

Christmas Collection for the Priests of the Parish will take place at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may make your contribution by using the blue envelop in your box or alternatively you may make your contribution along with the Offertory Collection.

Naas Parish Development Envelope Boxes for coming year are now available for collection from the Church Porches. Your support for this collection is and as always very much appreciated. It would greatly facilitate accurate record-keeping for tax relief purposes if you could please write your name and address on the first few envelopes you return.
Thank You, Naas Parish Pastoral Council

Christmas Flowers/Plants for Christmas: We would be most grateful for the donations of flowers (Red) and Poinsettias for the decoration of Our Lady and St David's Church for Christmas. They can be left at the Sanctuary area of the Church up to and including Monday 21st December.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are now available from the Parish Offices.

Found: Diabetes Testing Kit found in Lakelands on Thursday last, phone Parish Office on 879730. Also Sum of Money found at Aylmer Park on 10th December. Enquiries to Naas Garda Station on 045 884300/884340

Naas St Vincent de Paul helpline 045 897306.

SALLINS NOTICE

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday coming 22nd December from 10.30am —11am.

Christmas Collection for the Priests of the Parish will take place at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may make your contribution by using the orange envelope in your box or alternatively you may make your contribution along with the Offertory Collection.

Sallins Parish Envelope Boxes for the coming year are now available for collection in the Church and are in Alphabetical Order. If you wish to become a contributor please take a box of envelopes from the 'new contributor box' and write your name/address on the first few envelopes you use. ***A sincere Thank You to all who contribute to our collections.***

Sallins Church Choir will sing Christmas Carols before Masses this weekend, 19th/20th December in support of Focus Ireland supporting the homeless.

Sallins Scouts Christmas Day Canal Swim. Come along and support the Sallins Scouts swimmers on Christmas Day morning after 10am Mass at the canal. There will be hot chocolate available to keep everyone warmed up at this festive time.

Date for your Diary.....Sallins Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place on 24th June 2016. Details Rita Fanning on 045 861070 or 087 6536112.

Sallins St Vincent de Paul helpline 085 7052294.

TWO MILE HOUSE

St Peter's Church Two Mile House 225th Anniversary Book will be launched today, Sunday 20th December after the 11am Mass. Copies will be on sale at €10 each in the school where tea and biscuits will be served by members of the I.C.A.

Naas Parish Lotto Draw

There was no Jackpot winner in this week's Parish Lotto. The numbers drawn were 3, 24, 4 and 16.

Please note there will be **no** Lotto Draws on Wednesday, 23rd or 30th December.

Next draw will be on Wednesday 6th January 2016 when the Jackpot will be €2,250.

The Lotto Committee would like to thank our ticket sellers and all the people who continue to support our draw and we wish you and all your families and very Happy and Holy Christmas and every good wish for 2016.

Remember you can join the Lotto anytime.

GENERAL NOTICE

Parish Finances:

Sallins: Baskets: € 780 Envelopes € 420
Naas: Offertory: €4,719 Development €3,814
Two Mile House: € 760

Sports Lottery Results

Naas: 10/12 (3-4-10-24) No winner, Jackpot €5,650
Sallins: 14/12 (6-27-29) No winner, Jackpot €2,350
Splotto: 14/12 (2-8-27-28) No winner Jackpot €2,000

Trocaire Christmas Gifts are now on sale at Veritas Shop. Help make a life-changing difference to families in some of our poorest countries.

Goal Mile from 11am to 12noon on Christmas Morning at Naas G.A.A., Sallins Road. Bring families, friends and others to run, walk, crawl the mile. Sponsor Cards available, if required. Phone 086 8448530 or 087 6305515 or see Goal website.

Samuel Circle consists of a group of men from this diocese who meet once a month with the Vocations director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill to explore a vocation to priesthood. If you would like to join the group or learn more about it, contact Fr. Ruairi at 045 897470 or ruairiodomhnaill@gmail.com

Brian Brady Youth Theatre presents '*Cinderella*' in the Moat Theatre, Naas from 29th December 2015 to 10th January 2016. Tickets on sale now. To book phone 883030.

Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House Christmas 2015

Penance Service

Naas/Sallins/Two Mile House:

Irish Martyrs, Ballycane 8pm: Monday 21st December

ConfessionsChristmas Eve

Naas: Our Lady and St David's Church: 10.30am—1pm.

Masses Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

Our Lady and St David's Church:

Christmas Eve	5pm	7pm	9pm	12 Midnight
Christmas Day	8am	9.30am	11am	12.30pm

Irish Martyrs Church:

Christmas Eve	4pm	6pm	8pm
Christmas Day	10.30am	12 noon	

Our Lady and Guardian Angels Church, Sallins:

Christmas Eve	5pm	6.30pm	9pm
Christmas Day	10am	12 noon	

St Peter's Church, Two Mile House:

Christmas Eve	9pm
Christmas Day	11am

Weekday Masses:

From Monday 28th December to Saturday 2nd January (inclusive):

10am Mass only in Our Lady and St David's Church.

No other weekday Masses in Ballycane, Sallins or Two Mile House.

(Normal Mass schedule resumes on Monday 4th January)

Parish Website: www.naasparish.ie

St Vincent de Paul would like to express their sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to their recent Annual Church Appeal Collection in Naas and Two Mile House and Kill and to all who made their contribution through the 'Vincent' shops or directly by post to P.O. Box 1, Naas.

To date your generosity has raised €34,022.....this will greatly assist us with our work in helping those in need in our community this Christmas and in the year ahead. A Sincere Thank You to each and everyone and we wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

St Vincent de Paul's helpline phone number is 045 897306.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

AA meetings are held in the Portacabin in the Grounds of St David's Church of Ireland, Main Street. Naas (beside Donal's) on:

Monday and Thursday nights at 8.30pm and Monday and Wednesday afternoon at 1pm.

AA meetings are also held in the Community Centre, Sallins Road on:

Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 1pm and Saturday evenings at 7.30pm.

For further details phone 085 7300357

Al-Anon Meetings Monday nights at 8.15pm in Parish Centre, Ballycane (Tuesday on Bank Holiday)