

Believe it or not the events of Palm Sunday in Jesus' day, was an echo of something that happened before!



Indeed, five hundred years earlier, the prophet Zechariah said that one day there would be a day like this one. That ancient promise was etched indelibly in the mind of a glory-starved nation. The words of the Psalmist had been a continuing national lament: "Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away." For half a millennium, they had kept an eye out for David's successor to gallop into town, assume the throne, and change their sad song.

Would this be the day? As Jesus rode into his capital city, tourists from all over Israel lined the street and cheered wildly. The faithful cut down palm branches and spread them over the road just as their ancestors had done over a century-and-a-half before in a rare moment of national triumph when the Maccabees finally completed the overthrow of the Syrian Antiochus Epiphanes. He had been horrible, just google him and see! The crowds shouted, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us, please," or "Save us NOW!"

But hope is apparently a fragile commodity. We know the story. By the end of the week, the crowds will have disappeared and be replaced by a few faithful friends gathered on a hill outside Jerusalem called Calvary. What in the world happened? Perhaps the answer is as simple as a loss of hope. Then, near the end of the week, Jesus gathered with the Twelve in the Upper Room to celebrate the Passover. One would think that these, who had travelled with him and known him so intimately surely, would never lose hope - they had seen him give sight to the blind, heal withered limbs, even restore the dead to life. They could never lose hope, could they?? Well.

Have you ever lost hope? There are many reasons why you might... financial or relationship worries. The never ending criticism of anything to do with being Catholic, the ongoing preparations for a referendum on the 8th Amendment of the Constitution... stuff that is important to practicing Catholics is being undermined and undervalued. Yet in the midst of what are difficult days to be a Catholic in Ireland, we journey with Jesus through Holy Week. We must keep our eyes on the prize... Sunday's Coming!

Yes, there is lots wrong with this world. But it is hope that we need to sustain us. Indeed, it is ONLY hope that gets us through the darkest hours. I have hope, the same hope that energized that Palm Sunday crowd. On this first day of Holy Week, we know there will be a Monday, a Tuesday, a Wednesday, a Thursday, and finally, a devastating, death-dealing Friday. But on that awful day we can think again and recall a special time long, long ago. Then with heart and soul and every fibre of our being we can shout, IT'S FRIDAY, BUT, PRAISE GOD, SUNDAY'S COMIN'!

Easter Collection in support of the Priests of the Parish will take place at all Masses next weekend Saturday 31st March and Sunday 1st April.

As always we Thank You for your kind support and generosity.

Easter Sunday 1st April.

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There will be No 6pm Evening Mass in the Church of Our Lady and St David, Sallins Road on Easter Sunday.

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION	MASS TIMES
PRIEST ON DUTY: 085 708 8407	Church of Our Lady and St. David , Sallins Road
PARISH WEBSITE: www.naasparish.ie	WEEKDAYS: Mon-Fri 7:30am 10am Sat 10am
NAAS & SALLINS PARISH OFFICE Tel 879730	SUNDAYS: Sat Vigil 6pm Sun 9am 11am and 6pm
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm	
Naas eMail office@naasparish.net	Church of The Irish Martyrs, Ballycane
Sallins eMail sallinsparishoffice@gmail.com	WEEKDAYS: Mon, Wed and Fri 7:30pm
SACRISTY OUR LADY AND ST DAVID: Tel 856925	SUNDAYS: Sat Vigil 7:30pm Sun 10:30am 12noon
BALLYCANE OFFICE AND SACRISTY : Tel 895629	Church of Our Lady and Guardian Angels, Sallins
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm	WEEKDAYS: Tues and FRI 10am
	SUNDAYS: Sat Vigil 6:30pm Sun 10am 12noon
PARISH TEAM Fr. LIAM MORGAN Curates House 087 133 7879	
FR. JOE O'NEILL Sunday's Well 045 876197	Church of St. Peter, Two Mile House
FR. MICHAEL FLATTERY Sallins Road 045 897703	WEEKDAYS: Friday 7pm
FR. ALEX KOCHATT Lakelands 045 898684	SUNDAYS: 11am
DN. FERGAL O'NEILL Parish Deacon 086 3816 133	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Ms. HILDA CAMPBELL Pastoral Admin Ass. 089 4037570	
	CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST. DAVID , SALLINS ROAD Every First Friday before and after the 10am Mass
New Safeguarding Policy recently updated is now displayed in all our Church Porches.	Every Saturday after the 10am Mass
Naas:Andrew Fagan and Geraldine FahertySallins:Keith MurphyTwo Mile House:Mary Valentine, Paula Clancy and Suzanne Powell.They can be contacted through the Parish Office, Sallins Road, Naas. Phone 045 879730.Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:Ms Joan Treacy, C/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow. 085 802 1633	Palm Sunday Procession To-day Sunday 25th March is Palm Sunday. There will be a procession before 11am Mass. It will be a colourful joyful procession and there will even be a donkey! We especially want to invite the children who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and those who are preparing for their First Holy Communion, but all are welcome.
"THOSE WHO DIE IN GRACE GO BUT TO GOD AND GOD IS VERY NEAR" Naas : Brendan O'Sullivan, Sarto Park Mary Trundle, Roseville Rosanna O'Loughlin, Monread Heights	The procession will start at 10.15am at Tandy's Bridge. We advise people to leave their cars at the Church, walk up to Tandy's Bridge as Parking will Not be permitted at the Bridge. We will walk along the canal to Abbey Bridge, down the Main Street and arrive at Our Lady and St David's Church, Sallins Rd, for 11am Mass, which will be a Children's Liturgy.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.	
	NAAS PARISH NEWS
RECENT BAPTISMS Charlie Robert O'Leary, Mullacash Sadie Kate O'Leary, Lakelands	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.'
Aoife Louise Nolan, Pipers Hill Philippa Christian Kelly, Newbridge For those requesting the Sacrament of Baptism two	Chrism Mass You are warmly invited to join with Bishop Denis for the annual celebration of the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral, Carlow tomorrow

Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House Parish at www.naasparish.ie/sacraments/baptism.

cuppa in Carlow College. Please come early to be sure of a seat! Parking available in Carlow College. Naas Parish Penitential Service will take place on Wednesday coming 28th April at 8pm in the Church of Our Lady and St. David, Sallins Road.

- **Scripture Sharing** is suspended for the next 3 weeks and will re-commence on Monday 16th April at 8pm in the Parochial House. Bring a Bible.
- **Divine Mercy Prayer Group** takes place immediately after 7.30pm Mass in the Irish Martyrs Church, Ballycane, on Wednesday coming 28th March.
- **Coffee Morning** on Wednesday coming 28th March after the 10am Mass in the Parochial House... *come and join us for a cuppa a and a chat.*
- **Devotion to the Holy Face:** Devotion Prayers will take place on Good Friday, 30th March, from 12noon to 1pm in Poplar Square, (at John Devoy Statue). All welcome to join with us.
- Flowers for Easter; We would greatly welcome donations of flowers, yellow and white, to enhance our Churches for Easter. In OLSD if you could leave them on the Sanctuary or in the sacristy on or before Wednesday coming 28th March we would be most grateful. Flowers for Irish Martyr's if you could leave them in the buckets provided in the 'Day Chapel' on or before Wednesday coming 28th.
- **Newsletter Deadline** for all notices for newsletter next weekend 1st April to be with the parish office by Tuesday 27th at 1pm. email office@naasparish.net
- A Journey With the Cross: Good Friday Ecumenical Prayer Service, journeying through Naas with the Cross in prayer between our Churches starting at Our Lady and St. David's, at 7pm with the Stations of the Cross and on to St. David's Church of Ireland (Main Street) for 8pm and continuing to Irish Martyr's, Ballycane for 9pm.
- **Polish Easter Tradition:** Blessing of the Easter Foods is a tradition dear to the hearts of every Polish family. The Blessing will take place by Fr. Tadeusz Durajczyk on Holy Saturday in OLSD at 4.30pm.
- **Divine Mercy Sunday.** The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated in the Church of Our Lady and St David, Sallins Road on Sunday 8th April.
- Easter Mass Bouquet Cards are now available from the Parish Offices.
- The Parish Offices will be closed on Friday coming 30th March, (Good Friday).
- Veritas Shop will be closed on Good Friday 30th, open Saturday 31st at 9.30am.

SALLINS PARISH NEWS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tuesday coming, 27th March from 10.30am -11am.

TWO MILE HOUSE NEWS

- There will be <u>No</u> Weekday morning Mass, next week (Holy Week) in St. Peter's.
- **Easter Dues** in support of the Priests of the Parish will take place at all Masses next weekend 31st March/ 1st April. Envelopes are being delivered to all homes in the Parish this week and they will also be available in the Church Porches.

GENERAL NOTICES

Parish Finances

Sallins: Baskets: €790 Envelopes: €360 Naas: Offertory: €3,550 Development Fund: €2,750 Two Mile House: €365

Sports Lottery Results

Naas 15/3 (6-9-13-18) No Winner Jackpot €8,350 Sallins 20/3 (11-24-42) No Winner Jackpot €5,050

- Naas Parish Lotto Draw: €10,000 that's the Jackpot on Wednesday coming, 28th March. There was <u>NO</u> Winner on Wednesday last, 21st March. Numbers drawn were: 6 23 15 22. Accordingly if the Jackpot of €10,000 is not won on Wednesday coming 28th March, the Parish Lotto Committee has decided that, as a once-off for Easter only, there will be 4 extra prizes of €500 each in addition to our usual prizes of 4 x €100. Parish Lotto Draw take place at the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane every Wednesday night at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.
- Spring Clean Naas on Friday coming 30th March from 11am to 1pm. A community clean up is being organised for Good Friday morning at 3 locations: Poplar Square, Monread Pk and Chadwicks." All to be rewarded with free light refreshments in Poplar Square".
- The 'Trocaire Romero Family Award' aims to support the faith journey of your family towards the World Meeting of Families in Dublin next August. The award is centered around meal times in your home and affords all family members the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue around social issues and a chance to meet three different families from around the world by means of the journal. Once you have completed your journal you return it to Trocaire by Thursday 31st May. Your family will receive a certificate and a solidarity gift from another family in a country where Trocaire works. You will also be invited to an awards ceremony at the World Meeting of families. You can apply for the Journal at www.trocaire.org/romeroaward. The Journal will be posted out to you and you can see a sample of it at the World Meeting of Families information point in each church.

Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House Parishes: Penance Services			
Kill:	8	pm Tuesday 27th March	
Our Lady & St. David's Church: 8pm Wednesday 28th March			
Holy Thursday 29th March:			
Morning Prayer:	10am	In the Church of the Irish Marytrs.	
Our Lady & St. David:	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Irish Martyrs:	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Sallins:	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Two-Mile-House:	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Adoration: Following the 7.30pm Mass in the Church of Our Lady and St David and in the Church of the Irish Martyrs, there will be quiet Prayer / Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, ending with night prayer at 10pm.			
		Good Friday 30th March	
Morning Prayer:	10am	In the Church of the Irish Martyrs.	
Our Lady & St. David:	3pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	
	7pm	Stations of the Cross	
Irish Martyrs:	5pm Opm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	
Sallins:	9pm 3pm	Ecumenical Prayer around the Cross Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	
ouning.	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Two-Mile-House:	3pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Ecumenical Prayer:	8pm	Prayer in St David's Church of Ireland	
	9pm	Prayer around the Cross Service, Irish Martyrs	
		Holy Saturday 31st March	
Morning Prayer:	10am	In the Church of the Irish Martyrs	
Confessions:	•	m in Our Lady and St. David	
Blessing of Easter Foo	-	In the Church of Our Lady and St David for the Polish Community	
Our Lady & St. David:	9pm	Easter Vigil	
Irish Martyrs:	9pm	Easter Vigil	
Sallins	9pm	Easter Vigil	
Two-Mile-House	9pm	Easter Vigil	
Easter Sunday 1st April			
Our Lady & St. David:	9am	11am No 6pm evening Mass on Easter Sunday in Our Lady and St. David's Church.	
Irish Martyrs:	10.30am	12noon	
Sallins:	10am	12noon	
Two-Mile-House:	11am		
Sunrise Liturgy:	6.45am :	Gather at Punchestown Gates at 6.30am.	
Easter Weekday Masses			

From Monday 2nd April to Saturday 7th April: **10am Mass only** in Our Lady and St David's Church. No other weekday Mass in the Irish Martyrs, Sallins or Two Mile House

Trocaire Boxes may be left in the baskets provided in the sanctuary area of the Churches on Holy Thursday. Alternatively you can leave them into the Sacristan or the Parish Offices.