



NAAS SALLINS TWO MILE HOUSE NEWSLETTER



Mass Times: The Baptism of Our Lord (Year A)

<u>Church</u>	<u>Weekdays</u>		<u>Sundays</u>
Our Lady and St David, Naas	Mon-Fri 7.30am, 10am	Saturday 10am.	Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm Sunday 8.30am, 10am, 12noon, 6pm.
Irish Martyrs, Ballycane, Naas	Mon-Fri * 7.30pm	Saturday 11am	Saturday Vigil: 8pm Sunday 11am, 12.15pm
Our Lady & Guardian Angels, Sallins	Tues - Fri 10am.		Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm; Sunday 10am, 12noon
St Peter's Two Mile House	Friday 7pm		Sunday 11am

*The 7.30 pm Mass on Wednesday is celebrated in the Church of Our Lady and St David, Naas

Baptism – Social Event or Statement of Faith?

Some years ago a juvenile court judge in California observed that a large number of the teenagers appearing before him had tattoos - tattoos on the hands, fingers, and faces. The tattoos, he learned, identified the bearer as a member of some particular gang, who were frequent users of a particular drug. Many of these tattoos were self-inflicted by youths who were desperate to “belong.” The judge also discovered that teenagers with visible tattoos were virtually excommunicated from the jobs market, since potential employers equated the tattoos with crimes and incompetency, and refused to hire the youth.

The judge asked the Los Angeles County Medical Association if there might be, among its members, a plastic surgeon who, at no charge, would remove the tattoos from juvenile delinquents. Dr Karl Stein, a well-known Los Angeles plastic surgeon, was the first to volunteer. In the years that followed Dr Stein turned around the lives of hundreds of his young patients through surgically removing the tattoos by excision, abrasion, laser, and virtually every other known method.

Our baptism is our own personal tattoo. It is indelibly imprinted on us, and marks us out as disciples of Christ. Nothing can remove it or wash it away. But how obvious is that mark of baptism on us? How strong does it stand out in our daily lives? Is it absolutely evident from the kind of people we are and the kind of lives we lead that we are baptised members of Christ’s church, part of his body?

For some families today too, the baptism of a child is more a social event, a ‘naming’ party, than a religious celebration, a statement of faith. Today’s feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a good time to think about our baptism and what it means to us. It is a good time, too, to think seriously about why we choose to baptise infant members of our family. It should be a decision we make only out of a strong faith commitment, not merely some social event.

Sallins Parish News

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction as usual on Friday coming, 14th January at 7.30pm.

Organist Required for Sallins Parish for the 6.30pm Mass on Saturdays. If you can help out please phone Fr Jimmy or Mary in the Parish Office at 897150.

The Sallins Conference of St Vincent de Paul may be contacted at 085 7052294.

Sallins Parish Calendar are on sale in all shops and the Parish Office. Calendar cost €3 or 2 for €5.

Naas Parish News

St Joseph's Young Priests Society next monthly meeting Thursday 13th January at 8pm in the Parish Centre, Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane. Adoration from 8pm to 9.30pm.

Naas Simon Bag Pack: A special thanks to the girls of St Mary's and the Transition Year boys at CBS Secondary Schools for their time and dedication given to the recent 'Bag Pack'. Many thanks also to the new Tesco and the many local people who gave so generously of their time. A total of €5,500 was raised.

Naas Active Retirement Assoc are holding their next meeting Monday 10th January 2011 at 1.30pm in the Naas Community Centre, Sallins Road.

Two Mile House Parish News

Confirmation Enrolment: In December, due to the bad weather, we had to postpone our Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony. We have rescheduled it for next Sunday, 16th January at the 11am Mass. This is for the candidates and their families from Killashee and Two Mile House who will be making their Confirmation in March.

Two Mile House G.A.A. The AGM takes place on Monday, 17th January at 8pm. in the Killashee House Hotel.

Pre Sacramental Group; Meeting in Fr. Paul's on Tuesday evening next, 11th at 8.15pm.

Parish Pastoral Council; Meeting on Thursday, 13th January at 8.15p.m. in the school staff room.

Do This in Memory Programme; Parents' Leadership Group meet in the school on Wednesday 12th at 8.15pm.

Thanks to all who made the Christmas celebrations in St. Peter's so special, it was great to see so many involved and attending the masses. Thanks also for your generosity towards the priests' collection.

General Notices

Naas Town Council Christmas Tree Recycling:

Adjacent to Monread District Park Car Park; 9am to 12noon: Adjacent to Fairgreen Car Park; 2:00pm to 5:00pm Please note that this service is free of charge. We earnestly request that the above times are adhered to.

FREE CONCERT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS On Sunday, 16th January, senior citizens will have an opportunity to attend an afternoon concert of Golden Oldies when the Moat theatre throws it's doors open for a free concert. The concert titled 'Down memory Lane' is free of charge to senior citizens and presented by young students from Backstage Academy of Performing Arts as part of their 'Giving something back to the Community' project. Although entry to the concert is free of charge, you must still pick up a free admission ticket from the theatre box office in advance or if you know a senior citizen who might enjoy the concert, why not pick up a ticket for them-and don't forget-arrange the transport for them to the theatre and back and make it a happy trip down Memory Lane for them.

Night Classes at Pipers Hill College: For Spring 2001 Programme of Classes see www.kildarevec.ie

"ABCE Centre, Jiggingstown, Naas are now enrolling for spring term 2011 with classes start Monday 31st January 2011. Please contact Fiona at 045 881863 / Maria 045 866314 for a complete brochure"

Rinceoiri Dara Set Dancers Nas na Riogh say a 'Big Thank You' to the Businesses in Sallins and Naas who contributed vouchers and gifts towards the Raffle for their recent Ceile in December and to all the class members who made it such a wonderful night. The total of €1,000 was presented to the St Vincent de Paul Society. Classes resume on the 10th January at the Town Hall from 8.30pm-10.30pm

A New Year – New Challenges

Every New Year brings its own challenges. This year we are all deeply aware of the very difficult times which face our society. Many are struggling to make ends meet as we gradually come to realise the impact that recent policies and dishonesty has had. Many have lost their savings and pensions and as often happens those at the bottom of society will have to pay disproportionately for debts run up by those who controlled millions. The closure of Superquinn in Naas reminds us of those who have and continue to lose their jobs. Our thoughts and support are with them and the many young people who must emigrate to find work. I hope we will be able to support one another through these very challenging times.

Our church continues to be rocked by the scandalous abuse suffered by young people over the years at the hands of priests and religious. Every new enquiry reminds us of the terrible suffering of vulnerable young people at the hands of people who should have been instruments of the love of Jesus Christ. The year ahead will see the publication of yet another report from the diocese of Cloyne. It is becoming clear that the abuse was not just the consequence of the actions of a few 'bad apples' but was also the result of systems within the church. Hopefully the current visitations of the arch-dioceses, religious and seminaries will address systemic failures wherever they are found.

In our group of three parishes we need to continue building up the local Christian communities. The work of catechesis continues in our homes, schools and parishes. There is a growing realisation of the central role of parents in the handing on of the Christian faith. I encourage all parents to be brave in living the faith and in sharing it with your families. Hopefully the rest of us, teachers, priests, parish workers and parishioners will be able to provide you with the support and encouragement you need. I thank the members of our three Parish Pastoral Councils for the commitment they are giving to the life of the parishes. In the future these councils will have to share more and more responsibility for the life of the parish.

Care of the buildings of parishes is an ongoing burden which must be borne by us all if we are to provide the basic facilities necessary for the parish community. In the year ahead Naas and Two-Mile-House parishes face the task of carrying out necessary repairs to their churches. In Two-Mile-House the tower must be repaired. While this is being done it seemed wise to do some other works around the church entrance and grounds. Planning permission has been granted for the work which has received the support of the Pastoral Council. It is hoped it will be possible to carry it out using existing resources available to the parish. Work will begin after Easter and the church will not be available for weddings from May to August.

It is twenty five years since the very major reordering and renovation of Our Lady and St. David's Church in Naas. Wear and tear of this well used and loved church has taken its toll. In addition some items not addressed in 1985 must now be faced. Water is entering the building in a number of places so the building must now be re-pointed and broken guttering and down pipes replaced. The old mortuary chapel, main porch and stairs were not attended to in 1985; there is no heating in this area. It is now proposed to upgrade this whole area and bring it into regular use. The display at the back of the church gives an idea of areas needing attention. In addition the church grounds and car park will be upgraded. Planning Permission is being applied for and hopefully work will begin after Easter and be completed by Christmas. The church will not be available for weddings during this time. It will be closed for some weeks during renovation but will be available for weekend Masses. While the parish has resources available, it is unlikely they will be sufficient to complete the work. The parish finance committee and pastoral council will need to work on a plan for the renovation once a budget is agreed in the coming month or so.

The recession has put a halt to the ambitious plans for a new church and parish centre in Sallins. It is now clear that the development planned to fund this work will not take place in the foreseeable future. Meanwhile some minimal work has been carried out on the church to make it a safer building and ease circulation. The old school building has been renovated to bring it up to a reasonable standard. Thankfully the resources to carry out this work were available to the Parish Centre Committee and the parish. I would like to thank all who worked on these projects, especially those who gave of their professional services free of charge.

Clearly these are not good times to be seeking funds for parish renovation work but we are lucky to have the resources already available to do some or all of the work. With careful management and phasing it should be possible to bring these projects to completion. I thank you for your support and hope that we can all work together to support one another and build up the Christian community in our parishes.

With every good wish for a happy and peaceful New Year.