

# Parish Newsletter

**First Sunday of Advent  
1st December 2019**



No: 1730

Mt. 24:37-44



## Advent...

Every year we hear complaints that the lead-in to Christmas is starting earlier and earlier. By Halloween we are looking ahead to Christmas - thinking about what gifts to buy family and friends, checking out the decorations that have started to appear in the shops, perhaps even stockpiling tins of biscuits and boxes of chocolates. Many people sign up to Christmas clubs in order to spread the cost over the year. It's no wonder we often arrive at this time of year feeling like it's no time at all since last Christmas - it is never far from our minds.

As we enter Advent, we are invited now to turn our attention to our inner preparation for Christmas. We are waiting 'in joyful hope' both for Christ's birth and his return at the end of time. Taking some time each day to pray and reflect, perhaps to light the candles on our Advent wreath, will help us to focus on the wonderful mysteries that await us.

*'Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent, O God. Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise' (Karl Rahner)*

## Sallins Parish Celebrates!

On Friday 22nd November, Bishop Denis Nulty (pictured below) officially blessed and opened the new facilities now completed in Sallins - Cluain Mhuire meeting rooms, KDSI horticultural centre, community playground, all weather pitch, refurbished grotto and the newly completed car park. Printed below is a short extract from speech given on the day by Rita Walsh (picture below with Fr Liam), chairperson of KDSI Kildare Branch.

*"...Just to finish— I would like to say, last Thursday, I was wandering back down to An Garraí Beag and I stopped for a minute to appreciate how far we have come and how lucky we are. I could hear the children in the schoolyard at the school and the smallies in the playground when they play with the wind chime. I could hear the train coming into the station. Of our 18 students, 10 of them are travelling independently here to Sallins by train or bus and that is wonderful.*

*I could see people coming and going from the hall and I could see that we are nicely in the shelter of the Church, and so, my hope is that if the good Lord is not too busy that he might look after all of us who come to An Garraí Beag - whether it is to learn or to teach, to work or to volunteer, to find peace from being close to nature or in the company of good friends - keep us and our families in the palm of his hand."*



**Prayers for the safe return of Trevor Deely will take place on Friday 6th December in Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane at 8.15pm. All welcome.**

## SUMMARY OF NAAS PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR 2018

The accounts for the Parish of Naas have been submitted to and examined by the Diocesan Accountant and audited by the Diocesan external auditors. They form part of the Diocesan consolidated accounts submitted to the Charities Regulator. They have been approved by the Parish Finance Committee for publication in this form.

**Naas Parish Finance Committee:** Trevor Macnamara (Chairperson), Fr. Liam Morgan, Gerry Martin, Marion Keogh, Ciaran Murray, Chris Conway, Dn. Fergal O'Neill

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Development Fund Collection	€186,865	€193,509
Basket Collection	€181,760	€172,622
Income from Shrines	€40,044	€46,150
Rental Income	€25,881	€32,450
Fundraising	€17,475	€20,962
Donations & Bequests	€221,257	€49,254
Tax Refund	€0	€15,945
Church Bookings	€3,750	€3,550
Deposit Interest Received	€80	€15
Other Investment Income	€0	€0
Lotto Income	€46,676	€62,731
Other Income	€90,096	€188,052
	<b>€813,884</b>	<b>€785,240</b>

<b>Expenditure Incurred</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Wages and Salaries	€186,074	€131,535
Pastoral Programme Expenses	€13,381	€25,223
Insurance	€19,104	€18,297
Security	€8,048	€4,864
Light and heat	€32,804	€30,059
Cleaning	€8,392	€8,742
Rates, Water, LPT & Waste Collection	€4,315	€4,040
Repairs and Maintenance	€105,727	€71,049
Diocesan Levy	€72,602	€72,602
Diocesan Retirement Fund	€0	€2,000
Missalettes, Printing & Stationary	€23,335	€17,590
Altar & Shrine Requisites	€18,202	€19,121
Telephone, Broadband and Internet-related Expenses	€7,051	€8,819
Computer Software, Hardware and Servicing Costs	€7,900	€5,641
Hire of Equipment	€5,021	€738
Choir Expenses	€23,222	€22,436
Legal and Professional	€23,156	€22,539
Accountancy Fees	€840	€387
Youth & Community Expenses	€17,350	€27,308
Bank Charges	€2,694	€3,917
Donations	€7,178	€7,813
Other Loan Interest	€596	€3,718
General expenses	€6,903	€5,900
	<b>€593,895</b>	<b>€514,338</b>

<b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>€219,989</b>	<b>€270,901</b>
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## The Weekly Collections

The First Collection (the envelope collection) every week and monthly standing orders received from parishioners support the Parish Development Fund. Income from this fund is directed to major maintenance and renovation works on both parish churches, the parochial houses and the parish centre, for example, repairs to stained glass windows, carpets and painting of all meeting rooms in Ballycane Church, repairs and insulation to Mortuary Chapel roof etc.

The Second Collection (the offertory collection) supports the day-to-day running costs of the parish, for example, salaries for parish employees, insurance, utilities, light and heat, provision of office and secretarial expenses.

## Payments to Priests

The priests of the parish do not receive any payment from the Development Fund or Offertory collections. Salaries are paid from seven specific collections for priests taken at Christmas, Easter, Advent & Lenten Stations and Spring / Autumn collections. The priests rely on your generosity to these collections – thank you! At diocesan level, there is an agreement among priests that salaries throughout the diocese are equalised – all receive an equal amount. Any surplus generated in parishes goes to pay the diocesan retired priests fund. In recent years, across the diocese, there has been a reduction in the amount generated from these collections and salaries have been reduced by 12%. At present, Parish Priests receive €1,900 per month and CCs €1,750.

## The Parish Lotto

The Parish Lotto continues to make a significant contribution to the finances of the parish. Started in November 2013, the Parish Lotto supplements the weekly mass collections and helped greatly to offset the loan taken out to pay for the major refurbishment works in Our Lady and St. David's Church in 2013. We thank all who continuously support the Lotto and, in particular, our promoters. Please consider supporting the Lotto, possibly through a yearly subscription, monthly standing order or weekly €2 ticket – remember, it could be you!

## Tax Refund on your Donations to Naas Parish

A leaflet explaining the *tax refunds on donations* is available in the parish churches and the parish office. The parish qualifies for this scheme and is entitled to claim back 45% on donations of more than €250 per year. We receive very good support from our parishioners, many of whom contribute more than €250 each year to the parish. We received approximately €20,000 in refunds for 2018 (received in Oct 2019 and which will be reflected in the 2019 Financial Statement). To take advantage of this scheme, we must be able to record donations. We would encourage you to donate in a way in which this can be achieved. The easiest way is through the weekly envelope boxes. We record donations made in this way each week and can calculate the annual contribution. Alternatively, we can record donations made by cheque or standing order. Collections for the priests also qualify. Please record your name and address on the first few envelopes you use.

## Notes on the 2018 Accounts

Income: Donations and Bequests: The parish benefited from several large bequests in 2018 and a substantial grant of almost €75,000 from the Gubay Foundation, which accounts for the difference between the 2017 and 2018 figures.

Income: Other Income: The 2017 accounts included the receipt of a €60,000 bond payment due from the completion of the refurbishment works on Our Lady and St. David's Church in 2013.

Expenditure: Wages and Salaries: The 2018 figure includes the provision of additional services throughout the parish.

## Thank You

As in 2018, the continued healthy state of the Naas Parish finances is down to the generosity of so many of our parishioners. The First Collection and Offertory Collection continue to be the biggest source of funding for the parish. We thank you for your steadfast and consistent support of these collections – it is very much appreciated.

November 2019

*Trevor Macnamara (Chairperson)*

*Fr. Liam Morgan (Parish Priest)*

## Naas Parish Weekly Lotto Draw Results

You could win €4,700 on Wednesday, 4th December in the Parish Lotto Draw! The draw takes place at 6.30pm in the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane. **There was ONE WINNER of the Jackpot on Wednesday last, 27th November! Congratulations to M. Goggins! Numbers Drawn were:**

**17-21-1-16**



## FEAST AND MEMORIAL DAYS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Tues. 3rd December: St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Sat. 7th December: St Ambrose, Bishop

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is not a Holyday of Obligation this year. As the 8th December falls on the second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity is therefore transferred to Monday 9th December. **Please note, the normal weekday schedule of Masses will take place on Monday 9th December.****

### RECENT BAPTISMS

Ava Phibbs, Hazelmere

Cian Patrick McCarthy, Naas

Logan Jack Mark McCarthy, Aylmer Park

Darragh Malone, The Paddocks



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

Muriel Bell, Craddock House Nursing Home

Marie Cullen, McAuley Place

***MAY THEY REST IN PEACE***



## NAAS PARISH NEWS

**Ballycane Church Choir present their Songs of Praise Concert** tonight, Sunday 1st December, at Ballycane Church, 6.30-8pm. Admission is free. Donations welcome. All welcome to come & enjoy the songs & hymns of praise!

**Advent Preparation for Christmas: 'Sr. Peggy's Prayers'** You are invited to study the Advent Sunday Readings on each Tuesday during Advent, continuing on Tuesday 3rd December. Please meet in Fr. Seán's House, Sallins Road (blue door) after 10am Mass.

**Marion Movement Prayers for Priests** meeting on Saturday 7th December after 10am Mass in OLSD, Naas.

**Little Blessings Children's Liturgy Group** will take place at 10.20am, before the 10.30am Mass, in Ballycane Church next Sunday 8th December. All children over four welcome. Parents can drop their child to room 4 in Ballycane at 10.20am where they can join our volunteers.

## SALLINS PARISH NEWS

**A big 'Thank You'** to all who contributed to our Annual Raffle in aid of Sallins Senior Citizens Christmas Party. A list of the prize winners has been posted in the Church porch. Party being held today in Westgrove Hotel, Clane. "Thank you to all" - The Committee.

## TWO MILE HOUSE PARISH NEWS

**Eucharistic Adoration** in honour of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception starting after the 11am Mass on Sunday 8th December and continuing through Sunday night to Monday morning finishing at 9am, before the 9.15am Mass. For more details, please contact 089 242 4447.



**Two Mile House National School Annual Cake Sale:** Friday 6th December from 10am-12.30pm in the school hall. Everyone welcome! Tickets for cake raffle on sale Monday 2nd - Friday 6th December (in class) and also during the cake sale on Friday 6th December. All support is appreciated.

## NOTICE BOARD

**The St Vincent de Paul Society's** Annual Collection takes place at all Masses next weekend 7th and 8th December. Donations can also be sent to St Vincent de Paul, PO Box 1, Naas. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support. St Vincent de Paul Helpline 045 897 306.

**Naas Local History Group:** Illustrated talk by Dr. John Kehoe Snr. on The Tyndall Family on Monday 2nd December at 8pm in the Townhouse Hotel. All welcome.

**Nás Na Riogh Active Retirement Association** will meet again on Wednesday 4th December at 2pm in Ballycane Church. New Members welcome. Contact 085 877 7619 for more info.

**Found:** Purse containing a sum of money was found near Sallins Church on Sunday 24th November. Please contact Parish Office, Sallins Road.

**Parish Bingo continues every Tuesday night** at 8.30pm sharp, in the Care of the Aged Centre, Newbridge Road. Big prizes and Jackpot of €730! All welcome.

### Sports Lottery Results:

Naas: 21/11 (3-6-18-27) No Winner, Jackpot €4,900

Sallins: 25/11 (2-4-19-23) No Winner, Jackpot €6,900

### PARISH FINANCES:

**Sallins:** Baskets: €895 Envelopes: €535

**Naas:** Offertory: €4175 Development Fund: €3850

**Two Mile House:** €655

**Advent Collection in support of the Priests of the Parish** will take place this weekend, 30th November / 1st December at all Masses. *As always, we thank you for your continued kind support and generosity.*

**Parish Envelope Collection Boxes** for the coming year are now available for collection from the Church porches or the Parish Office, Sallins Road. Your support is greatly appreciated.