

Parish Newsletter

Second Sunday of Advent
8th December 2019



No: 1731

Mt. 3:1-12



Change of Heart

'Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.' (Dave Barry) We might recognise ourselves in this statement! We are so used to the commercial side of Christmas –

the frenzy of ads and gift-buying, the extravagant decorations and parties – that it is easy to forget what we are really celebrating.

That is where John the Baptist comes in. We first meet John in Luke's Gospel, before he is even born: Elizabeth's pregnancy is announced at the same time as Mary's, though John will be born first. The next we hear of John, he appears as God's messenger (as we hear in today's Gospel), preparing the way of the Lord. His job is to set the stage for Jesus to begin his ministry, and his central message is repentance. The Greek word for repentance was *metanoia*, which literally means a change of heart, or turning one's life around. So John is inviting his audience to make a break with the past, turn to God, and go in a different direction. When Jesus begins his own ministry, his first message is the very same: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This is a fitting message as we enter the second week of Advent. As we prepare to welcome Jesus, we are invited to *metanoia*, or change of heart. As we ponder the mysteries of Christmas, we are nudged onwards in a new direction. This week, we could make a conscious effort to move away from the noise and lights of 'the mall', to still our minds, and to open our hearts to God's call. *'Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.'* (Washington Irving)



Thank you to all the Confirmation Candidates from the six Primary Schools in Naas who participated in the Parish Confirmation Programme during November.

Also, a big thank you to the parents who attended with their children for the last session and the four Froebel students from Maynooth who assisted.

Thank you to Michal Mizgala for supplying the photographs.

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

PRIEST ON DUTY: 085 708 8407

PARISH WEBSITE: www.naasparish.ie

PARISH OFFICE Tel.: 045 879 730

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm

e-mail: office@naasparish.net

SACRISTY OUR LADY AND ST DAVID: Tel 045 856 925

BALLYCANE OFFICE AND SACRISTY : Tel 045 895 629

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Liam Morgan	Sallins Road	087 1337879
Fr. Alex Kochatt	Lakelands	045 898684
Fr. Michael Flattery	Sunday's Well	045 888112
Fr. Seán Maher	Sallins Road	045 897703
Dn. Fergal O'Neill	Parish Deacon	086 3816133
Ms. Hilda Campbell	Pastoral Admin. Asst.	045 879730

Safeguarding Policy displayed in all Church Porches.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Naas: Geraldine Faherty & Adrian King

Sallins: Keith Murphy, Emer McCarthy & Dermot McGilloway

Two Mile House: Paula Clancy & Suzanne Powell

All of the above can be contacted through the Parish Office, Sallins Road, Naas Phone 045 879 730

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Mr Mick Daly

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michele Hughes, c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow

Phone: 085 802 1633

FEAST AND MEMORIAL DAYS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Mon. 9th December:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Fri. 13th December:	St Lucy, Martyr
Sat. 14th December:	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

RECENT BAPTISMS

Caoimhe Roselle Power, Naas

Fionn Micheál O'Byrne, Oldtown

Alfred Ronald White, Crewe, England



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

Brigid Kilduff, Our Lady's Place

Mary Brophy, Sarto Park

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



NAAS PARISH NEWS

Advent Preparation for Christmas: 'Sr. Peggy's Prayers' continues on Tuesday 10th December after 10am Mass in Fr. Seán's House, Sallins Road (blue door).

Naas Apostolic Society: Next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th December at 2pm in the meeting rooms at Ballycane Church. New members very welcome.

Naas Parish Development Fund Envelope Boxes for the coming year are now available for collection, from the Church Porches or the Parish Offices. Your support for this collection is as always greatly appreciated.

To facilitate accurate record-keeping, for tax relief purposes, we ask that you please write your name and address on the first few envelopes that you return.

"A sincere thank you to all who contribute to our collections".

Urgently Required! Volunteer PowerPoint Operators needed for OLSD Church, Naas at the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday evening and the 9am Mass on Sunday morning only. Full training will be provided. Please contact the Parish Office, Sallins Road if you would like to get involved or for more information! *Thank you.*

Please note that the Parish Office, Sallins Road will be closed from 3pm onwards on Wednesday 18th December. We will re-open on Thursday 19th December at 10am as normal. Thank you!

SALLINS PARISH NEWS

Sallins Parish Envelope Boxes for the coming year are now available for collection from the Church porch. Your support is, as always, greatly appreciated. To facilitate accurate record-keeping, we ask that you please write your name and address on the first few envelopes that you return. ***"A sincere thank you to all who contribute to our collections".***



Cake Sale: 23rd Sallins Scout Group will be holding a cake sale on Sunday 15th December after the 10am and 12 noon Masses in Sallins Community Centre. Pop in and treat yourselves to lovely cakes and buy a raffle ticket! We look forward to seeing you there!

TWO MILE HOUSE PARISH NEWS

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

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Perfect Preparation for Christmas: Afternoon retreat on Sunday 22nd December in Ballycane Church conducted by Fr Liam Morgan. All welcome. Full details to follow. *Thank you, St Josephs Young Priests Society.*

Youth Mass: Come along and join us for our next Youth Mass which will take place next Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm in Ballycane Church. All youth are also very welcome to join our Parish 'ARK' Youth Band/Choir. Practice starts at 6.15pm in Room 3, Ballycane Church before the Youth Mass.

COMMUNION MASSES: Please note that our December Communion Masses will take place next weekend Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December in the following Churches at the following times:

OLSD: 6pm Vigil (Saturday) & 11am (Sunday)

CIM: 12 Noon (Sunday)

TMH: 11am (Sunday)

Sallins: 12 noon (Sunday)



Bambinelli Sunday, 15th December 2019

Baby Jesus from your Crib: For the past several decades, each year on Gaudete Sunday, children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figure from the crib in their homes to St. Peter's Square in Rome where the Holy Father blesses both the people and the figurines during the Angelus. This has become affectionately known as 'Bambinelli Sunday'.

This year we will celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' in our three Parishes. Families are invited to bring the figure of the Baby Jesus to any of the Communion Masses to be blessed (please see list of Communion Mass times above). A suggestion is, following the blessing, take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap it and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas morning and together place the Baby Jesus into the family crib. Say a prayer of blessing together asking God to protect your family and thanking God for the gift of His Son.

CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Parish Penitential Service will take place on Friday 20th December at 7.30pm in Ballycane Church. Confessions will also take place on Saturday 21st December in OLSD, Naas beginning after 10am Mass and also on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December, after 10am Mass until 1pm.

Live Crib, Naas:

Saturday 14th December, 12 noon to 7pm. Come join us to celebrate the special season of Christmas with a Live Crib scene in the grounds of Our Lady and St David's Church, Naas. Performances on the day by various local choirs and performers. Special word of thanks to Naas Men's Shed for the erection of the crib and corral.

Christmas Carols by Candlelight with Celine Byrne and Kildare Choirs on Saturday 21st December at 8pm in Church of Our Lady and St David, Naas. Main beneficiaries: Oncology Ward, Naas Hospital and Naas Parish supporting the Homeless. Tickets are €10 and are available from the Parish Office (Sallins Road and Ballycane), Barker & Jones and McAuley Place. *Thank you for your support.*

Reach Out Gift: This year's Parish Reach Out Gift will be given out at Masses next Weekend, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December.



Remembrance Candles: To remember loved ones who can't be with us this Christmas Season. €5 per candle. Please join us as the candles are placed onto the canal at the harbour, Basin Street following a special 6pm Mass and procession of light, led by a piper, going from Our Lady and St David's Church, Naas on Saturday 21st December. Proceeds from the candles will be used to defray expenses involved in activities during December of the Naas Town Traders Christmas Committee.

NOTICE BOARD & LOCAL EVENTS

The St Vincent de Paul Society's Annual Collection takes place at all Masses this weekend 7th and 8th December. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support. St Vincent de Paul 045 897 306.

Arts & Crafts Christmas Fair Fundraiser for Killeel Comhaltas, today Sunday 8th December in Killeel Hall from 10am-4pm. All welcome.

Kill ICA Ecumenical Carol Service in St Brigid's Church, Kill at 7pm today, Sunday 8th December in aid of Barretstown House and Friends of Naas Hospital. Featuring The Kill Singers, Newbridge Gospel Choir, St Brigid's Choir, The Cocoman Sisters and others. Admission is free, donations greatly appreciated on the night.

Past times Community Choir Naas present their 2019 Christmas Sing-A-Long! The O'Connell Suite, Westgrove Hotel, Tuesday 10th December, 11.30am-12.30pm. All welcome, family friendly, free event! Christmas dress!

Naas Active Retirement: Members only meeting, Wed. 11th December at 2pm in Naas Community Centre.

Clothes Collection supporting Friends of Calcutta on

Wednesday 11th December collecting up to 1pm at Sallins Church, up to 3pm at Ballycane Church and up to 4pm at Two Mile House Church. All items of clothing and footwear most welcome. Sadly, we cannot accept duvets, cushions and pillows. To view a short film on what you so generously funded last year, please visit 'rajiv19' on YouTube. All enquiries to Michael on 087 907 3074. Thank you.

'Carol Together At Christmas' Friday 13th December at 8pm, Naas Presbyterian Church (opposite the Town Hall). Everyone most welcome to join in the singing!



Nás na Rí Singers present Vivaldi, Gloria, Traditional and Favourite Carols, Friday 13th December, 8pm in Church of Our Lady & St David, Naas with County Kildare Orchestra Vivaldi Ensemble and joined by choirs of Naas Community College & Gael-Cholaiste Chill Dara. Tickets €15, children €5 from Barker & Jones or at the door on the night.

Couples from the Community of the Domestic Church will share their testimonies, everyone is welcome to join the Masses in the following Churches; Allen: Sunday 15th December at 10.30am, Allenwood: Saturday 14th December at 6.30pm and Sunday 15th December at 11.30am, Milltown: Sunday 15th December at 9.30am.



Christmas Fair: Call into An Garraí Beag's (behind Sallins Church) first Christmas Fair on Sunday 15th December from 10am-2pm. Enjoy a

variety of Christmas goods and planters for sale on the day and grab a coffee or hot chocolate! Admission free and ample parking available.

Naas Community Men's Shed would like to thank everyone who so kindly supported their recent street collection. Your support is appreciated.

Found: Mobile phone found at the gates of the entrance to the Church car park. Please contact Mercy Convent Primary School on 045 876 410.

14th Annual Christmas with Friends takes place this year on Christmas Day, in Open Arms Church, Industrial estate Newbridge. This is an adult social day for those who live alone or couples looking for a Christmas with a difference or we can deliver dinner to your home. For more info. please call Anne on 086 804 2724.

Are you or have you been troubled by someone's drinking? If so, Al-Anon Family Groups are here to help. Meeting every Monday in Ballycane Church, 8-9.30pm (Bank Holiday Mondays - meetings take place on Tuesday evening 8-9.30pm). For more info. please phone 01 873 2699 or visit www.al-anon-ireland.org.

Sports Lottery Results:

Naas: 28/11 (1-22-23-28) No Winner, Jackpot €5,050

Sallins: 02/12 (2-4-13-14) No Winner, Jackpot €7,000

PARISH FINANCES:

Sallins: Baskets: €660 Envelopes: €340

Naas: Offertory: €3017 Development Fund: €3023

Two Mile House: €706

Naas Parish Weekly Lotto Draw Results

You could win **€4,950** on Wednesday, 11th December in the Parish Lotto Draw! The draw takes place at **6.30pm** in the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane. There was **NO WINNER** of the Jackpot on Wednesday last, 4th December! Numbers Drawn were:

1-18-25-7