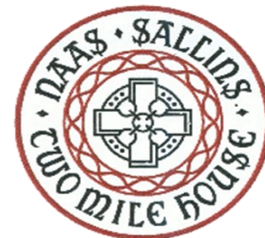


Parish Newsletter



**Fifth Sunday of Lent
29th March 2020**

No: 1745

Jn. 11:1-45

A MESSAGE FROM FR. LIAM

You may be familiar with the Swiss-American psychiatrist, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, a pioneer in near-death studies, and author of the internationally best selling book, 'On Death and Dying'(1969). In this study she first discussed her theory of the five stages of grief. Delving deeper into these stages they reveal a journey that includes feelings of shock, anxiety, being overwhelmed, reaching out to others and telling one's story. When the everyday routine of our lives came to a shuddering halt on Thursday 12th March, the day Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced the closure of schools and the restrictions placed on gatherings of people. What we've collectively experienced is shock, a disbelief that our freedom is curtailed, our schools are closed, our places of worship are out of bounds and then the sudden scale of job losses! Coupled with television images from Italy, the St. Patrick's Day address by An Taoiseach preparing us for the 'calm before the storm', and the rapid rise day on day in diagnosed cases of Covid-19.

Yes, shock, anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, just about sums it up!

And, yet, we find ourselves adjusting to a 'new normal'. Phrases like: social distancing, wash your hands, cough etiquette have become the familiar lexicon of this strange and surreal time. However, in the midst of such trial and challenge, there is enormous kindness, thoughtfulness, and a determination to reach out in most innovative ways. Little did we think that webcam would become the primary means by which we would pray together.

It has been heartening to hear the feedback and appreciation expressed for this newly forged connection that draws us together in a spirit of communion and prayer. It is a prayer that also calls us to action, and I am delighted by the imaginative ways that our parish sponsored group, 'NaasPoint' are now actively reaching out to housebound and isolated parishioners. How a simple phone call can lift ones heart, or the practical assistance offered in doing a grocery shop or collecting a prescription. Well done to a great band of volunteers!

On the material side of things, many people have phoned into the parish office enquiring about how to contribute to the **Sunday Collection.** I deeply appreciate your concern and your desire to support the parish. Like so many individuals, families and businesses, we've seen our parish income plummet to zero levels. In this newsletter we outline some options as to how you may continue to support the parish. At the end of the day it is our health, safety and wellbeing that is of utmost importance. God will always provide and there lies our hope and our trust.

To conclude, may I commend and pray God's blessing upon all who work so selflessly with the sick and vulnerable at this time, I pray God's blessing upon each one, may God keep you safe and well.

You may have noticed that some of the readings for Lent are beautiful. I will leave you with a quote from the Old Testament Prophet, Hosea. This reading was proclaimed on Saturday 21st March, it is for us a real source of hope and encouragement. Drawing as we ought to from God's Holy Word. I hope you find consolation in these lines of scripture (Hosea 5:15)

The Lord says this:

They will search for me in their misery:

'Come, let us return to the Lord.

He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us;

he has struck us down, but he will bandage our wounds;

after a day or two he will bring us back to life,

on the third day he will raise us

and we shall live in his presence.

Let us set ourselves to know the Lord;

that he will come is as certain as the dawn,

he will come to us as showers come,

like spring rains watering the earth.'

Every blessing, keep safe and well - Fr. Liam

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: Closed until further notice

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.

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

Kathleen Loughran, St Patrick's Terrace

Kay Judge, Aylmer Park

Billy Hyland, Roseville

Tom Brennan, Sallins

Nora O'Connor, Monread

Joseph (Joe) Cronin, Sarto Park

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

TIMETABLE FOR WEBCAM/RADIO CEREMONIES

(No public participation, Church doors will be closed during these ceremonies)

WEEKDAYS:

7.30am	Morning Prayer
10am	Mass
5.30pm	Evening Prayer & Rosary
8.30pm	Night Prayer

WEEKENDS AND HOLY DAYS:

Saturday	9am	Morning Prayer
	10am	Mass
	Vigil, 6pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30pm	Night Prayer
	9am	Morning Prayer
	11am	Mass
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer & Rosary
	8.30pm	Night Prayer

All Masses will be offered for the intentions of all Parishioners at this time.

Confessions: Saturdays 11am in OLSD.

NaasPoint hospitality room is no longer our focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we are aware there is still a need for hospitality especially for those who are housebound.

NaasPoint volunteers will now be available to work for those in isolation. Among the ways they might help are:

Telephone buddies: If anyone wants a daily phone call to just chat and to "check in,".

Practical Help: Some older people or people in isolation may need practical help from grocery delivery to checking household matters (e.g. putting out bins).

How to contact NaasPoint to request assistance? Please call the Parish Office on 045 879730

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- As we are not physically attending Mass in the Church, how do we continue to make our weekly donations?
 - ◆ A box for posting donations is available in the Church of Our Lady and St David
 - ◆ By the DONATE ONLINE option on the parish website, www.naasparish.ie/parish-donations
 - ◆ Donations, whether in the weekly church envelopes or any other envelope, can continue to be dropped into the letterbox of the Parish Office on the Sallins Road
 - ◆ The Parish Office can now take payments over the phone
- Can I still buy a Mass Card/Bouquet, including Easter and Exam Mass Bouquets?
 - ◆ They can be ordered online on the parish website www.naasparish.ie/parish-cards
 - ◆ You can fill in the order form, which is available on the table just inside the door to Our Lady and St. David's Church, and post it into the letterbox for the Parish Office on the Sallins Road.
 - ◆ You can call the Parish Office on 045 879730 to place an order and pay by cardWith each of the above, we can write and post the card for you, or, if you prefer, we can send you the cards to write yourself
- How can I still receive my catholic publications or make purchases from the Parish Office Shop?
 - ◆ Please call the Parish Office to organise (045 879730)
- Can I still have names added onto the Tuesday (living) and Wednesday (deceased) lists for the Altar?
 - ◆ Names can be written down and placed into the letterbox of the Parish Office
 - ◆ You can call the Parish Office on 045 879730 and we will write the names in for you.

If there is some information which we have missed out, please call us in the Parish Office on 045 879730.