

# Parish Newsletter



29th November 2020

*First Sunday of Advent*

**Priest on Duty: 085 708 8407**

**Parish Office: 045 879 730**

**Parish Website: [www.naasparish.ie](http://www.naasparish.ie)**

**Email: [office@naasparish.net](mailto:office@naasparish.net)**

**No: 1773**

**Mk. 13:33-37**



## The Meaning of Advent

We have all done a lot of waiting in these past months – waiting for different levels of restrictions to pass by, waiting for daily figures from the government, waiting to be able to visit loved ones again, waiting for news of a vaccine or a cure. The season of Advent is also a time of waiting. But, in contrast to much of the waiting we have had to do this year, our advent waiting is characterised by hope and expectation and joy. And this is because we are waiting in confidence for One who has already come to us, who is daily coming to us and who will come to us again – Jesus Christ. The word 'Advent' stems from the Latin 'Adventus,' meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. In the Church calendar, the First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new year. Over the Four Sundays of the Advent season we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas when we remember and commemorate the birth of Christ. But Advent is also about preparing ourselves for His second coming. We are reminded of this second coming in many phrases that we hear or say at Mass, for example 'as we look forward to his second coming', 'when he comes again in glory', 'as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour'. This second coming is a central theme from the beginning of Advent right up to the 17th December. At that point, our attention and preparation shifts more to the commemoration of His first coming on the feast of the Nativity. Waiting in hope this Advent, we know that Jesus is our light, our salvation, the One for whom we long. How will you ready yourself to welcome Christ into the centre of your life, with all its bits and pieces, once more? As a new Church year begins, will you give yourself the gift of a new relationship with Christ? For through Him hope overcomes despair, peace overcomes division, joy overcomes desolation, love overcomes hatred. *Maranatha! come, Lord Jesus!*

## 'An Advent Liturgy of Hope'

You are warmly invited to join with Bishop Denis for a service of prayer to begin the Advent journey together in a spirit of hope. This will be streamed live from Carlow Cathedral, via iCatholic.ie, at 7:30pm on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29th. In these darkening days of winter may this time of music, scripture, inspiration and prayer help us draw once more on the hope that comes to us through our faith in Jesus, a hope that brings the light of Christ into our lives. *Please have an individual candle ready to light and to hold during this service.*



### PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

**PRIEST ON DUTY: 085 708 8407**

**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.naasparish.ie](http://www.naasparish.ie)

**PARISH OFFICE Tel.: 045 879 730**

**Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm**

**e-mail: [office@naasparish.net](mailto: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
Dn. Fergal O'Neill	Parish Deacon	086 3816133
Fr. Robert Petrisor	Sallins Road	045 879 730
Ms. Sarah Farmer	Parish Manager	045 879 730
Ms. Trish O'Neill	Youth/Pastoral Minister	045 879 730

**Safeguarding Policy displayed in all Church Porches.**

#### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

**Naas:** Geraldine Faherty & Adrian King

**Sallins:** Dermot McGilloway, Emer McCarthy

**Two Mile House:** Paula Clancy & Suzanne Powell

**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

#### PARISH FINANCES

**Naas:** Offertory: €685 Development Fund: €680

**Online donations** (19th - 25th Nov.): €1657

**Sallins:** Envelopes: €220



**On Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December, the Priests of the Parish will call to visit the sick and housebound who are on their First Friday lists.**

**Online Catechism Studies:** Each Monday, 8pm - 9pm. Enjoyable, relaxed study of the Catholic Faith. If you would like to join, please contact Alice on 087 6505 803 to receive the Zoom link.

**Online Mini Advent Retreat:** exploring the themes of Faith, Hope and Love, led by Fr Billy Swan, St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy. Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December, starting at 8pm. If you would like to join please email [thehookoffaith@gmail.com](mailto:thehookoffaith@gmail.com).

### CURRENT MASS TIMES & CHURCH OPENINGS

Due to current level 5 restrictions, **all public masses are suspended.** Churches will open for private prayer only. Please join us for Mass via webcam from the Parish Church or from Two Mile House Church, please visit [naasparish.ie](http://naasparish.ie) to access our webcams. You can also join by radio, from OLSD only, at 107.3FM.

The following schedule currently applies in the *Church of Our Lady and St. David*, on the webcam:

<b>Monday – Friday:</b>	Morning Prayer:	7.30am
	Rosary:	9.30am
	Holy Mass:	10am
	Evening Prayer:	5.15pm
	Rosary:	5.30pm
	Night Prayer:	8.30pm
<b>Saturday:</b>	Holy Mass:	10am
	Vigil Mass:	6pm
<b>Sunday:</b>	Holy Mass:	11am

The following Mass schedule applies in the *Church of St. Peter*, on the webcam:

<b>Monday - Saturday:</b>	9.30am
<b>Sundays:</b>	11am

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Ballycane Church:	Mon – Fri:	10am – 7pm
<b>Adoration finishes at 6pm on Thursdays in Ballycane Church; Mothers' Prayers 6 - 7pm.</b>		
Parish Church:	Sat:	12noon – 5pm
	Sun:	12noon – 6pm

#### FEAST AND MEMORIAL DAYS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<b>Sun. 29th Nov.:</b>	First Sunday of Advent
<b>Mon. 30th Nov.:</b>	St Andrew, Apostle
<b>Thurs. 3rd Dec.:</b>	St Francis Xavier, Priest

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

Breda Ward, St Conleth's Place  
Catherine Saunders, Kill  
Joan Purcell, Jigginstown



**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

**Fr Jimmy Doyle Month's Mind Mass will take place on Sunday 6th December at 11.15am in Christ the King Church, Cooleragh**

You can join the Mass online via the link below:

[www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/christ-the-king-church-cooleragh](http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/christ-the-king-church-cooleragh)



# Waiting in Hope - An Advent Bulletin for the Home

*A 'Digging Deeper' initiative of the Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation*

**Diocesan Advent Page:** The diocesan website, [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie), has a dedicated Advent page that will be added to throughout the season of Advent. Parishioners are invited to access this page for a weekly Advent bulletin, Scripture Sharing reflections from Fr Liam Lawton, videos on making and blessing an Advent wreath and on creating an Advent prayer space in the home and more!

## An Advent Tradition for Church and Home

### THE ADVENT WREATH

The advent wreath has a rich meaning. The circle of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God. The evergreen reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection. The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent. Purple is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the rose pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday) marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.



### A Blessing Prayer

Loving God, let your blessing come upon us as we light this wreath. May it be a sign of hope for us as we prepare for your coming and may it turn our hearts to you in the days ahead. Give us your peace and love as we wait in joyful hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

*See [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie) for a short video on making a wreath for your home.*

## A Suggestion for the Home

Why not create a prayer space in your home for Advent? You might like to make your own Advent wreath or have a special Advent candle to use in the prayer space, including perhaps purple coloured cloth/ribbons and evergreens.



## An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 1

*You might like to light your Advent wreath or Advent Candle to begin your prayer*



Loving God, on this Advent night we turn to you in prayer. As we wait for the coming of your Son, we ask you to bless our family. Free us from any worry or distress that we may have and help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us your gift of hope. May your hope fill our hearts, our minds and our home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Please remember the work of St Vincent de Paul this Advent



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Naas is conducting its Annual Christmas Appeal. The Society helps those in poverty and in need in the Naas, Johnstown, Kill and Two-Mile-House areas.

While Covid-19 presented more than the usual difficulties, we continued our work to help those in need.

**This year however, we cannot hold our usual church gate collection. You may have received a letter through your letterbox, if you wish to make a donation it can be returned in the envelope to the address shown below.**

**You can also return your envelope to the Parish Office, Sallins Road.**

**If you did not receive our letter and would like to donate please send it to "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 1, Naas, Co. Kildare".**

To receive a receipt please include your name and address. We may contact you in relation to the tax back scheme run by the Revenue Commissioners, which can increase donations by 45% when individuals donate €250 or more. See <https://www.svp.ie/privacy.aspx> for our Privacy Statement. (Charity Reg. No CHY6892).



## Christmas Mass Bouquets & Christmas Cards

To order your cards, please complete an order form (available in the Parish Church) and post this into the letterbox of the Parish Office, Sallins Road. You can also call either of the Parish Offices, 045 879 730 (Naas) & 045 895 629 (Ballycane), to place an order and organise payment and collection with us.

Alternatively, you can email us on [office@naasparish.net](mailto:office@naasparish.net).

Please order first and then we will arrange collection/delivery with you.

Christmas Mass Bouquets and Christmas Cards as Gaeilge also in stock

Christmas signed Mass Bouquets (€2 plus donation), Boxed Christmas Cards (€6 per box of 16 or 18)

*Advent Candles and Calendars, Church Art Calendars and a range of Christmas items now available, please call for more details and to arrange collection/delivery with us.*

NaasPoint Christmas Cards are available to purchase now, €5 for pack of 6 cards. All proceeds go towards NaasPoint projects. Cards depict scenes of the stained glass windows in the Church of Our Lady & St David, Naas. NaasPoint continue to offer practical help to those in need at this time. If you would like to get in touch with them, please call the Parish Office on 045 879 730.



### Finding our feet....

It can be very hard to live with uncertainty. Back at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, a counsellor was interviewed on radio about how people were coping with the 'lockdown'. People were anxious and fearful, she said. Many were experiencing loneliness, as their normal routines and social life came to an abrupt halt.

Another thing that people really struggled with was the inability to make decisions. They felt trapped and stuck, unable to plan ahead. They couldn't make plans to visit family or go on holidays. They didn't know if their jobs were secure, or if their children would return to school. When things are up in the air, it is hard to find your feet and feel grounded. Many of us are still struggling with these feelings.

Today we enter a new church year, and our first Advent season since the pandemic hit. Many of us are feeling more subdued than normal as we begin our preparations for Christmas. It will be very different from the usual family and social occasion, and we are saddened and worried by this.

In today's gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to 'stay awake'. We might feel we have no choice at the moment – the feeling of not knowing what is coming is very familiar. We are on our guard, on edge, waiting for the latest news. Yet already, there are initiatives springing up to support those who are vulnerable or in need this Christmas. In our own families, we are plotting ways to ensure no one is alone or isolated. We are 'awake' to the strange circumstances, and we are finding ways to cope. We pray today for the strength to guide us through the coming weeks, and for the peace and joy of Christ to lift our hearts and carry us onwards. **'In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you, greets you and says: 'Rejoice'.'** (Pope Francis)

(Extract taken from Intercom Publication)



### Naas Parish Weekly Lotto Draw

resumes on **Wednesday 2nd December with a jackpot of €5,000!** Tickets

can be purchased from the Parish Offices, Sallins Road and Ballycane, or from the following outlets: Whelans Menswear, Nolans Butchers, Barker & Jones, The

Stationery Store, The Soda Bread Shop, Gouldings Hardware and Swans on the Green. Lotto envelopes are

available in the porches of the Parish Church, Sallins Road and Ballycane Church. **Envelopes can be dropped into the letter boxes of either Parish Office.** *Thank you for your continued support.*