

Parish Newsletter

13th December 2020

Third Sunday of Advent & Gaudete Sunday



No: 1775

Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28

Celebrating Christmas 2020

(Information and Guidance for celebrating Christmas in the Parish)

It is a frequent topic of conversation, 'how are you going to celebrate Christmas?' To be honest we don't have any particular blueprint to follow. It will be a Christmas like none other ever experienced in our lifetime. However, this year we have adapted to, and coped with so much change, beginning with the first lockdown. From our experience of being on call to the hospital, and the patients and staff whom we encounter, we appreciate that we are still in a delicate and fragile place with the virus. It is vital that we continue to be on our guard and take note of all the advice offered by those in leadership. The months of repeated lockdown have not been easy, how wonderful it was to see regular parishioners return to Mass on Tuesday 1st December. As Christmas approaches we need to plan carefully, and the arrangements we outline here will require from all of us, patience and understanding.



Please God with vaccines on the way, we might look upon this Christmas as the one Christmas when we all had to make sacrifices. It is clear from NPHET and Government that attendance at Masses is drastically reduced. Each year in our pastoral area, we celebrate 19 Masses both on Christmas Eve/Day. Given the amazing crowds of people who attend our Masses each Christmas, to cater for everyone, we would probably need to treble/quadruple that number, it simply isn't humanly possible! Therefore with this in mind we propose the following:

1. Please give serious consideration to joining us for Mass on the **webcam** from your home via Naas Parish App or on www.naasparish.ie. *We wish to remind Parishioners that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the Pandemic.*
2. Choose to attend just one Mass over one of the following days; Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, St. Stephen's Day, Sunday 27th December. There are 33 Masses to choose from in our four Churches, please see the times of Masses printed on the back page.
3. On Christmas Eve morning why not consider visiting the Church of OLSD, between 10.30am and 1pm, to take the opportunity to receive Holy Communion only (**NO Mass**) and conclude with a prayer at the crib. This option would be suitable for families and older people, a time of quiet and ease of movement. Confessions will also be available.
4. Attendance at Mass for Christmas will be on a first come basis, when capacity is reached, you may unfortunately be refused entry to the Church (Hard to believe!).
5. Depending on weather and wrapped up with thermals, you might brave it by remaining outside, focusing on the 'outdoor crib', and Christmas tree, a new initiative for this year! Alternatively you could return to your car to listen to Mass on the radio from the Parish Church (107.3FM) or use a smart device to follow the Mass on webcam or in Ballycane on Facebook Live. After the 'Our Father' come forward to the designated outdoor station to receive Holy Communion.
6. Please consider making St Stephen's Day or Mass on Sunday 27th your Christmas Mass.

We decided 'right or wrong' not to go with tickets, perhaps this way we avoid disappointing many regular and faithful parishioners. Please note that the Church doors will open 20 minutes before each Mass and close again after each Mass for sanitisation of seats etc. **The stewards who help us so generously did not make the rules so please be patient, kind and understanding.**

And thank you for your kind and faithful support to the Parish and to each of us on the Parish Team.

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

'NAAS PARISH' APP: DOWNLOAD FOR FREE VIA APP STORE OR PLAYSTORE/GOOGLEPLAY

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

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

Mary McCarthy, Hollywood Park

John Sean Lehart, Sarto Road

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



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.

RECENT BAPTISMS

Leighla Mae Collins, Sallins

Millie O'Hanlon, Willouise

Emmi Jade Roche-Cooney, Newbridge

Aodhla Rose Fay, Woodlands

Sienna Redmond, Sallins

Raphael James McGowan, Oak Park

Grace Ann Killeen, Finlay Park



Signed Christmas Mass Bouquet cards, boxed Christmas cards and NaasPoint Christmas cards available in the Parish Shop, Sallins Road and Ballycane. Advent Candles, Calendars and a range of Christmas items and gifts now in stock!

PARISH FINANCES

Naas: Offertory: €2150 Development Fund: €2150

Online donations (3rd - 9th Dec.): €399

Sallins: Envelopes: €1275 Baskets: €355

TMH: €530

MASS SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2020

CHURCH OF OUR LADY & ST DAVID, SALLINS ROAD

WEEKDAYS: Mon-Fri: 7:30am & 10am
Sat: 10am
Sat Vigil: 6pm

SUNDAYS: 9am, 11am & 6pm

CHURCH OF THE IRISH MARTYRS, BALLYCANE

WEEKDAYS: MON. & WED. ONLY: 7.30pm
Sat Vigil: 7.30pm

SUNDAYS: 10.30am & 12noon

CHURCH OF OUR LADY & GUARDIAN ANGELS, SALLINS

WEEKDAYS: Tues & Fri: 10am
Sat Vigil: 6.30pm
SUNDAYS: 10am & 12noon

CHURCH OF ST PETER, TWO MILE HOUSE

WEEKDAYS: Mon-Sat: 9.30am
SUNDAYS: 11am

All Masses in OLSD & TMH Churches are available via webcam on Naas Parish App or on naasparish.ie. Also by radio, from OLSD, at 107.3.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Ballycane Church: Mon – Fri: 10am – 6.30pm

Adoration finishes at 6pm on Thursdays in Ballycane Church; Mothers' Prayers 6pm - 7pm on Thursdays in Ballycane Church.

Parish Church: Sat: 12noon – 5pm
Sun: 12noon – 6pm

Masks must be worn in the Church at all times, thank you.

Christmas Flowers/Plants



We would be most grateful for the donations of flowers (red) for the decoration of the Churches for Christmas (both Naas and Ballycane). Poinsettias are particularly welcome. Thank you.

Parish Envelope Boxes for the coming year are now available for collection from the Church Porches or the Parish Offices. 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".***

Adoration in the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane will finish on Wednesday 23rd December and will resume on Thursday 7th January at 10am.

A Jubilee to Celebrate



Later this week, on Wednesday 16th December, Fr. Michael will celebrate an important and significant milestone. The Golden Jubilee for his ordination to the priesthood. fifty years ago on the 16th December 1970.

As we all know Michael is an Offaly 'nice' man, native of Clara, responding to the call of Priesthood, he joined the Society of African Missions (SMA). Michael has had a rich and varied experience of priestly ministry. After ordination he was posted to Liberia, ministering there for nineteen years. A country that experienced much poverty, civil war, and deep unrest. Returning to Ireland Michael was appointed as parish priest to Neilstown in Dublin.

However, the song of Africa was still reverberating deep within and Michael made his way to South Africa and ministered there for a period of thirteen years. Since his return to Ireland, Naas has been his home for the past four years.

Michael has become a valued colleague, appreciated by so many parishioners to whom he ministers so faithfully. We appreciate his insights, his experience and anecdotes from foreign parts and most especially his easy, good natured, down to earth, good humoured ways!

He has a deep love for scriptures, a great interest in the lives of saints, as well as a curiosity about historical facts and trivia. When work is done Michael likes nothing better than to put the feet up on a Sunday afternoon and watch a hurling or soccer match, mind you any sport. Often he goes on a course! A course with the small ball. Seemingly he is handy!

We thank Michael for his ministry here in Naas and particularly in Two Mile House. As well as sacramental moments of parish life, Michael engages fully with chaplaincy to our local schools, hospital ministry and the many groups and committees that make up the day to day fabric of Parish life. We thank him for his faithful ministry among us and for the generosity of his commitment over a life time.

Like so many other occasions, the pandemic has deprived us of the opportunity to celebrate and be together. However we cannot let the moment pass without marking this important jubilee. In a very simple way as befits the simplicity of the man himself, Michael will celebrate the 10am Mass on Wednesday 16th December, where his colleagues will join him. Maybe afterwards we will give Michael a cuppa! Michael, congratulations on the Golden Jubilee of your ordination and a heartfelt thank you from your colleagues and the parishioners of Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House.

Ad Multos Annos!



Naas Parish App - Have you downloaded the App yet? Please refer to last week's newsletter (Sunday 6th December) for full instructions on how to download the App!

Online Christmas Carol Service with Celine Byrne on Saturday 19th December at 7.30pm in the Church of Our Lady and St. David, Naas. We invite you to join us via the webcam facility on either Naas Parish App or www.naasparish.ie.



Virtual GOAL Mile: Please visit www.goalglobal.org and look for Naas Goal Mile to donate. Please support! Do the mile yourself. Spread the word and encourage others! Thank you. Any queries to 086 844 8530.



In the run up to Christmas, the Parish Shop, Sallins Road will now open on Saturdays from 9.30am-4pm.



Waiting in Hope: The Advent Bulletin for week 3 is available to view on the Naas Parish App and also on www.naasparish.ie.

Christmas with Friends unfortunately cannot hold their annual social day this Christmas. However, Martinstown House will cook dinner which can be delivered to your home. This is sponsored by Newbridge Kildare Lions Club. **If you would like a dinner**, please contact Anne 086 804 2724 or Damian 087 245 0881.

Samaritans; we are here for you. Our volunteers are here to listen 24/7. Please don't suffer in silence. Freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie.



Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House Christmas Timetable 2020

All Masses in OLSD & TMH Churches are available via webcam on Naas Parish App or on naasparish.ie. Also by radio, from OLSD, at 107.3.

CONFESSION TIMES: Tuesday 24th December

Our Lady & St David's Church: 10:30am – 1pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES, Thursday 24th December

Our Lady & St David's Church: 5pm, 7pm, 9pm and 12 midnight

Church of the Irish Martyrs: 4pm, 6pm and 8pm

Our Lady & the Guardian Angels, Sallins: 5pm, 6.30pm and 8pm

St Peter's Church, Two Mile House: 6pm and 9pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES, Friday 25th December

Our Lady & St David's Church: 9am, 11am and 12.30pm

Church of the Irish Martyrs: 10.30am and 12noon

Our Lady & the Guardian Angels, Sallins: 10am and 12noon

St Peter's Church, Two Mile House: 9am and 11am

Normal schedule of Masses for weekend of 26th/27th December and 2nd/3rd January

MONDAY 28th DECEMBER – TUESDAY 5th JANUARY MASSES

Our Lady & St David's Church: 10am

No other weekday Masses in Ballycane and Sallins. Weekday Masses will continue as normal in TMH, any changes will be announced.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY MASS TIMES, Wednesday 6th January

Our Lady & St David's Church: 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm

Church of the Irish Martyrs: 12 noon ONLY

Our Lady & the Guardian Angels, Sallins: 10am

St Peter's Church, Two Mile House: 9.30am

Normal weekday Mass Schedule resumes on Thursday 7th January

Naas Parish Weekly Lotto Draw

There was NO WINNER of the €5,250 Jackpot on Wednesday last, 9th December.

Numbers Drawn were: **27 – 9 – 2 – 28**

Lucky Dip winners of €100 each were: T.O'Broin, A. Sibi, G. Murphy and B. Gallagher.

The next draw will take place on Wednesday 16th December 2020 at 6.30pm in the Church of the Irish

Martyrs, Ballycane. No winner this week, so Jackpot increases to **€5,550!**