

# Parish Newsletter

20th December 2020

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*



No: 1776

Lk. 1:26-38

## Christmas Message from Fr. Liam

On the first day of January this year, celebrating Mass for New Year in the parish Church, and speaking to the assembled congregation (no social distancing) I marvelled at the arrival of 2020. As a youngster I remember TV programmes that would project as to what life might be like in 2020? They called it 2020 vision! And what a year? Now with the benefit of experience and hindsight, it is now a year that we will never forget! Certainly a once in a lifetime, a generational experience like no other. Back in February, mention of the Corona Virus seemed like a far away problem confined to distant China. Little did we imagine the impact it would have on our daily lives. The unseen enemy that would bring not just social distance, but an emotional distance, leaving in its wake a torrent of sorrow, separation and isolation.

The webcam had been in the parish Church for years, but only in 2020 did we discover that we had one! And what a blessing it was, becoming a vital link and a necessary connection. Those were strange days, the locked doors of the Church, the empty pews, the silent streets. However, there were many blessings; the presence of kind and thoughtful neighbours, a renewed appreciation for our 'front line workers', the beauty and simplicity of a walk by the canal, the thoughtful gesture of home baking left on the door step. Evidence too of so much earnest and sincere prayer connecting homes and people.

As we journeyed through 2020 the repeated lockdowns became wearisome. I think if we are honest, we are all mentally tired and weary of Covid 19. Please God 2021 will bring renewed hope and blessings, perhaps we will bring with us some new insights and learnings.

Reminder, that we are not always in control of this life and discovery too of the strength and consolation that we derive from our faith in God.

Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth is normally a most joy-filled time. This year we will celebrate Christmas beneath the shadows of Covid 19. Yet, this Christmas, like every other will invite us to acknowledge that the Saviour of the world is born of the blessed Virgin Mary. In sending his Son into our world God assures us of his abiding love for us. He is with us at all times, especially when life is tough. He is close to us, wanting to lead us to a fuller life and a deeper and more lasting happiness. In this Covid time, we have witnessed a rekindling of the tried and tested Christmas values of human life. And maybe in the lockdowns, more time for prayer and a new experience of spiritual solitude. How obvious to see the surge in kindness, empathy especially for those who experience illness and loss. Realisation too of the importance of family and friendship. With these encouraging signs, let us pray for each other and to God that he may empower humanity to end this pandemic. Grant eternal life to those who have died, consolation for the bereaved, healing to the sick, and for us to live the gracious values of the Christmas season.

To conclude, may I wish you and your families the peace, hope and joy of this Holy season. Thank you to our parish staff and a multitude of volunteers who look after and support so many aspects of parish life. In these challenging times a heartfelt thanks to you the parishioners of Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House for your financial support given to maintain our parishes, and also in support of us, the priests of the parish. We appreciate and never take for granted your kindness and generosity.

I wish Fr Sean a blessed first Christmas in Balyna Parish, he made a big impact while with us, and I wish Fr Robert a happy and holy first Christmas in Naas, a young man of many talents! Meantime, take care and keep safe! Every blessing to each and every family.

## 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**

**'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"**

Rita Keating, Lacken View  
Brigid Wilson, Two Mile House

**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

Ivan Mata Polanc, Naas

Noah Liam Ward, Sallins

Reuben Jan Vrijhof, Newbridge

Fionn Logan Keating, Sallins

Theo James Kenny, Sallins

Bobby Joe Cleary, Naas

Ellie Mary O'Donoghue, Naas

Cara Marie Doyle, Naas



### PARISH FINANCES

**Naas:** Offertory: €2,085 Development Fund: €2,120

**Online donations** (10th - 16th Dec.): €468

**Sallins:** Envelopes: €890 Baskets: €273

**TMH:** €620



**Waiting in Hope:** The Advent Bulletin for week 4 is available to view on the Naas Parish App and also on [www.naasparish.ie](http://www.naasparish.ie).

## 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](http://naasparish.ie). Also by radio, from OLSD, at 107.3.*

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

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

**Adoration in Ballycane Church will finish on Wednesday 23rd December and will resume on Thursday 7th January at 10am.**

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

**Christmas Flowers/Plants:** We would be most grateful for donations of flowers (red), on or before Tuesday 22nd Dec., for the decoration of the Churches for Christmas (Naas & Ballycane). Poinsettias are particularly welcome. Thank you.



Thank you to all for the support so far with collecting your Parish Envelope Box - it is greatly appreciated. Boxes are still available for collection from the Church porches and Parish office. For accurate record-keeping we ask that you please write your name and address on the first few envelopes that you return.



**Naas Parish App - Have you downloaded the App yet?** Download for free now via App store or Playstore/GooglePlay - search for 'Naas Parish'.



## Celebrating Christmas 2020

### (Information and Guidance for celebrating Christmas in the Parish)



- Attendance at Mass over Christmas will be on a **first come basis**, when capacity is reached, you may unfortunately be refused entry to the Church.
- Please give serious consideration to joining us for Mass on the **webcam** from your home via Naas Parish App or on [www.naasparish.ie](http://www.naasparish.ie). ***We wish to remind Parishioners that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the Pandemic.***

Choose to attend just **one Mass** over one of the following days; Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, St. Stephen's Day, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December. There are 33 Masses to choose from in our four Churches, please see the times of Masses printed on the back page of this newsletter.

- **On Christmas Eve morning why not visit the Church of OLSD, between 10.30am and 1pm, to take the opportunity to receive Holy Communion only (NO Mass) and conclude with a moment of prayer at the crib. Perhaps joining Mass at a later time via the webcam. This option would maybe offer a quieter and calmer time to visit the Church. Confessions will also be available.**
- 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.**
- Please consider making St Stephen's Day or Mass on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> your Christmas Mass.

We decided 'right or wrong' not to go with tickets, perhaps this way we avoid disappointing many regular and faithful parishioners. Under Government guidelines, we are only allowed to have people inside the Church for one hour therefore the Church doors will only 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.



**The Parish Offices** (Naas & Ballycane) will be open up to and including Christmas Eve. We will finish up for the Christmas Holidays at 1pm on Christmas Eve and we will re-open and resume normal hours again from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, opening at 10am.

**The Parish Shop** will also close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am.

### Christmas Collection in support of the Priests of the Parish

Envelopes for the Christmas Collection for the Priests of the Parish are available in the Church Porches in Naas, Ballycane and Sallins. Please place your Christmas donations inside this envelope and place envelope into the normal collection boxes in the Churches. ***We thank you for your very kind support and generosity shown to us at all times.***

#### A Special Invitation - Carlow Cathedral Carol Service:

Parishioners from across the whole diocese are invited to join in a livestreamed service of carols, readings and prayers today, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30pm, led by Bishop Denis. This promises to be a very special moment of shared hope, joy and song as we approach Christmas. Live stream will be available on [www.iCatholic.ie](http://www.iCatholic.ie).



**Christmas with Friends:** If you would like a dinner, please contact Anne 086 804 2724 or Damian 087 245 0881. This is sponsored by Newbridge Kildare Lions Club.

**Virtual GOAL Mile:** Please visit [www.goalglobal.org](http://www.goalglobal.org) and search for Naas Goal Mile to donate. Thank you.

**Samaritans; we are here for you.** Volunteers are available to listen 24/7. Please don't suffer in silence. Freephone 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.ie](mailto:jo@samaritans.ie).

**KARE, Share a Break:** Give a little time - Make a big difference. Have you time to offer short breaks to an adult with an intellectual disability in your home for mid week/ weekend breaks? No qualification needed. Information and support are provided. If interested, please contact Jennifer on 087 720 6779/045 480200.



# 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](http://naasparish.ie). Also by radio, from OLSD, at 107.3.*

### **CONFESSION TIMES: Thursday 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 €5,550 Jackpot on Wednesday last, 16th December.

Numbers Drawn were: **14 – 20 – 8 – 5**

Lucky Dip winners of €100 each were: P. Heffernan, M. Noone, M. Trant & L. McManus

The next draw will take place on Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 6.30pm in Ballycane Church. No winner this week, so Jackpot increases to **€5,750.**

Thank you all for your support of the Parish Lotto throughout the year. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!