

# Parish Newsletter

21st February 2021

*First Sunday of Lent*



No: 1783

Mk. 1:12-15



## What does Lent mean?

While we associate **Lent** with preparation for Easter, the word 'Lent' actually comes from the Anglo-Saxon word **Lencen**, meaning 'spring'. That might seem strange at first but when we think about it there is an obvious connection between spring and our preparation for Easter. While the images of spring may be of blooming flowers, spring lambs and lengthening, warmer days, none of this is instantaneous. It is a slow process of **change, growth and new beginnings** as nature turns away from the cold and harshness of winter towards the warmth and light of spring.

Our journey in Lent is a bit like that, offering us an annual opportunity, in the light and warmth of our faith, for change, growth and new beginnings. Every spring, every Lent holds the promise of a fresh start and new life; this is a time when we can honestly look at our lives and take even the simplest of steps **to turn back to and deepen our relationship with God** and allow our faith to impact who we are in the world.

In other languages the word Lent comes from the Latin, **Quadragesima - a period of 40 days**. In the Christian tradition the forty days is understood to refer to a time of intense prayer and preparation; we remember the biblical stories of Noah and the flood of forty days, the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness and, primarily, we remember Christ's forty day fast in preparation for his ministry. Lent is our forty days of preparation to renew our baptism at Easter and to put ourselves back on track to live the life our baptism calls us to live in the everyday circumstances in which we find ourselves.

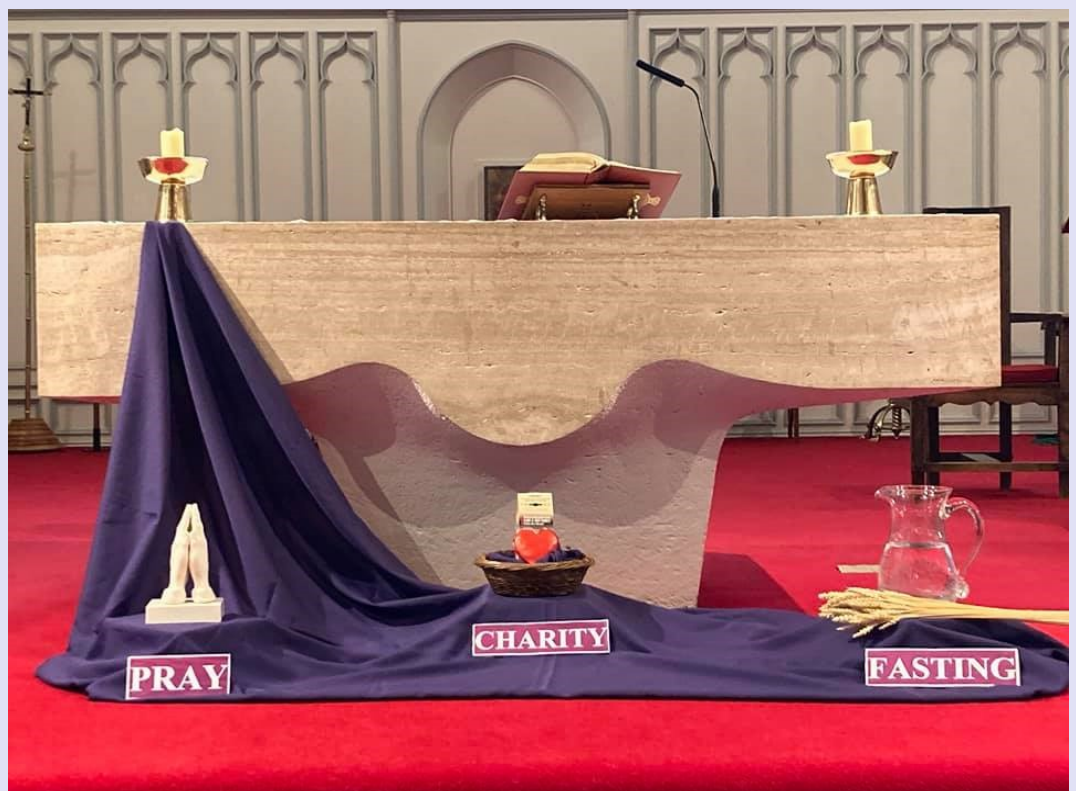
Lent, then, is a time of doing penance, of actively embracing the Lenten disciplines of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. None of these are ends in themselves, they are all part of the process that leads us back to God.

## Lent



A picture of the Sacred Space at the front of the Altar in the Church of Our Lady and St David.

A reminder of the three themes of Lent; Prayer, Charity and Fasting.







**Ash Wednesday 2021:** Parishioners collecting their Blessed Ashes and Ash Wednesday Prayer Card in the Church of Our Lady and St David, Naas. Sincere thanks to all our volunteers including the JPPII volunteers who helped fill the envelopes!

### *First Sunday of Lent: Some Suggestions for the Week*

- Make the Sign of the Cross when leaving your home/passing a church/cemetery/before and after a meal
- Give up social media for an evening (or more!)
- Take some time to go on a walk and say a prayer along the way
- Take a moment and pause when you feel you want to give out
- Support Trócaire's Lenten appeal
- Call and chat with someone you know is living alone



### ***Fasting this Lent***

Fast from hurting words and say **kind** words

Fast from sadness and be filled with **gratitude**

Fast from pessimism and be filled with **hope**

Fast from worries and **trust** in God

Fast from pressures and be **prayerful**

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with **joy**

Fast from selfishness and be **compassionate** to others

Fast from grudges and be **reconciled**

Fast from words and be silent, so you can **listen**.

***Pope Francis***



"The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us - as communities and as individuals - to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father".

**From Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2021**



# Staying connected with our Parish during Lent

## PARISH LENTEN PROGRAMME 2021



**8am** Morning Prayer, Monday to Friday

**9.30am** Rosary, Monday to Saturday

**10am** Holy Mass

*The Church opens after Mass each day, Monday to Saturday, from 11am for quiet, personal prayer*

**5pm** Evening Prayer and Rosary, Monday to Thursday

**For the Fridays of Lent: Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5pm - please join on webcam/radio.**

**Saturday and Sundays** in Our Lady and St David's Church; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held from 12noon - experience stillness, peace and prayer.

### LENTEN TALKS!

Evening Prayer, with a guest speaker, four Fridays in March commencing on Friday 5th March at 7.30pm. You are invited to join us on webcam or radio on these evenings. We look forward to welcoming our guest speakers;

+ **Noel Shannon**

+ **Fr. Seán Maher**

+ **Sr. Brenda Dolphin**

+ **Lloyd Bracken**

These evenings will lead us into the celebration of Holy Week and Easter by focusing on the themes of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and reconciliation.



**The Youth Ministry Team** have arranged for the Stations of the Cross to be prayed for teenagers, via Zoom, during Lent. This will be led by some of the Pope John Paul Awardees from the parish, and will take place on Monday evenings. Please contact Trish in the parish office for further information. Parental Consent Forms Required.

**Lenten Station Collection in support of the Priests of the Parish will take place this weekend. Thank you all for your continued support.**

Mass Cards are available to order, for delivery only, from the Parish Offices and Shop and Anniversary Masses can also be booked at this time. Please phone 045 879 730 (Naas) or 045 895 629 (Ballycane) for enquiries/bookings.

Stay  
Connected

**Newsletters** available in all our Churches and also from the following outlets in Naas; Swans on the Green, Centra (Ballycane), Supervalu (Fairgreen), O'Reilly's Pharmacy, Poplar Pharmacy and Nolans Butchers.

Follow us on webcam, from Naas and Two Mile House, at [www.naasparish.ie](http://www.naasparish.ie), Facebook ('Parish of Naas'), Parish App ('Naas Parish'), Twitter (@naasparish) and on radio at 107.3FM! Have you downloaded our Parish App yet? Download for free now via App store or Playstore/GooglePlay - simply search for 'Naas Parish'. Turn on push notifications to keep up to date with your Parish!



## 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

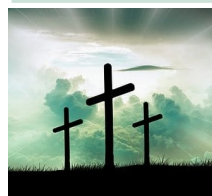
**Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:** Mr Mick Daly

**Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person:** Ms Michele Hughes, c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow **Phone:** 085 802 1633

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

### **Magnificat Lenten Companion:** Prepare for Easter with

Magnificat's Companion for Lent with daily prayers, engaging and faith-filled essays, poetry and devotions, inspiring daily reflections, Lenten Penance Service, the Stations of the Cross and more. **This booklet is €5, to order and purchase your copy, please phone the Parish Office Shop on 045 879 730.**



**Easter Mass Bouquet Cards** available now from the Parish Offices. Please phone us on 045 879 730 or 045 895 629 to order your cards and arrange delivery.

### **PARISH FINANCES**

**Naas:** Offertory: €860 Development Fund: €865

**Online donations (11th - 17th Feb.): €609**

**Sallins:** €370

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

Eamon Heffernan, St Martin's Avenue, Naas

Anna Kane, St Conleth's Place, Naas

***MAY THEY REST IN PEACE***



We continue to remember and pray for all those who have died during this pandemic and those who mourn. We pray, also, for those who work with the families of the deceased, our priests, funeral directors, sacristans, music ministers and all those who help in any way.



## MASS TIMES & CHURCH OPENINGS

### FEBRUARY 2021

All public masses are suspended in line with current measures from the Government. Places of worship will remain open for private prayer only. You may join us for Mass via webcam through the Naas Parish App or via [naasparish.ie](http://naasparish.ie), from the Parish Church or from Two Mile House Church. You can also join by radio, from OLSD only, at 107.3FM.

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

### **Monday – Friday**

**Morning Prayer:** 8am

**Holy Mass:** 10am

**Evening Prayer:** 5pm, followed by the Rosary

### **Weekends:**

**Saturday:** Holy Mass 10am

Vigil Mass 6pm

**Sunday:** Holy Mass 11am

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

**Monday - Saturday:** 9.30am

**Sunday:** 11am

### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Mon – Fri, 10am – 6pm Ballycane Church

Sat, 12noon – 5pm Parish Church

Sun, 12noon - 6pm Parish Church

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

***Praying for those who mourn  
during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19***

**Lord of all gentleness,**

**You are close to the broken-hearted.**

**We entrust into your care**

**those who mourn the loss of a loved one this day.**

**Surround them with your love  
and comfort them in their sorrow.**

**Grant that they may not be overwhelmed by  
their loss.**

**May they know the consolation and support  
of the Christian community.**

**Give them confidence in your goodness  
and strength to meet the days ahead.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**