

Parish Newsletter

30th January 2022

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



No: 1830

Lk. 4:21-30

St Brigid - Our Patron Saint whose story speaks to the Modern World...

St Brigid's Day – 1st February – approaches and with the announcement of a new public holiday recognising Brigid from next year – interest in the patron saint of our diocese has never been greater. In reflecting on Brigid, it is helpful to think in terms of what we might term the “Brigid stories” – a number of different ways of thinking of Brigid in which a little history, a lot of folklore, centuries of tradition and generations of devotion all play a part.

The traditional Brigid story focuses on the recollection of a saintly woman who was kind and charitable while being a charismatic leader who established a flourishing community of female and male religious at Cill Dara “the church of the oak” at the location of present-day Kildare town. This tradition of the holy and humane Brigid was held dear by the Irish Christian church through the centuries and, in the rebuilding of the Catholic church after the famine years, devotion to Brigid was fostered and flourished. Many churches and schools throughout Ireland were named after her

and devotion to her was reflected in popular prayers and litanies and in the christening of so many children with her name. She was depicted in stained-glass and sculptures dressed in the robes of an abbess – an image which reflected her status as a leader in the early Irish church.



In recent times an interest in ancient spirituality has claimed a Brigid story rooted in a pre-Christian past in which regard for the essence of life – the earth itself, water and nature – is emphasised. For a rural people the change in the seasons was associated with higher powers. The coming of spring had a particular significance – seeds were sown, sheep were lambled, there was a brightening and warming of the atmosphere. So, it was not surprising our forebears conferred a sacred characteristic on the days around 1st February attributing the arrival of the spring to a female spiritual figure with all her associations with fertility and with new life.

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PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

PRIEST ON DUTY: 085 708 8407

PARISH WEBSITE: www.naasparish.ie

NAAS PARISH OFFICE: Tel.: 045 879 730

E-mail: office@naasparish.net

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm

SACRISTY OUR LADY AND ST DAVID: 045 856 925

BALLYCANE OFFICE AND SACRISTY: 045 895 629

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Liam Morgan	Sallins Road	087 133 7879
Fr. Alex Kochatt	Lakelands	045 898 684
Fr. Michael Flattery	Sundays Well	045 888 112
Fr. Robert Petrisor	Sallins Road	045 879 730
Dn. Fergal O'Neill	Parish Deacon	086 381 6133
Ms. Trish O'Neill	Youth/Pastoral Minister	045 879 730
Ms. Sarah Farmer	Parish Manager	045 879 730

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

Marie Rice, Kingsfurze, Naas

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE



PARISH FINANCES

Naas: Offertory: €1,640 Development Fund: €1,640

Online donations (20th. - 26th Jan.): €371

Tap & Go (20th - 26th Jan.): €826

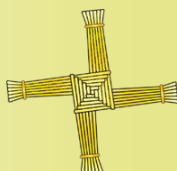
Sallins: Envelopes: €455 Baskets: €440

TMH: €305



FEAST OF ST BLAISE, BLESSING OF THE THROATS:

Blessing of the throats will take place on Thursday 3rd February at the 7.30am and 10am Masses in the Church of Our Lady & St David, Naas.



St Brigid's Crosses are now available to purchase from the Parish Shop (Sallins Road only), while stocks last! Crosses are €5 each. We would like to thank everyone who helped in the making of these crosses.

MASS TIMES - January 2022

OUR LADY AND ST. DAVID, NAAS

WEEKDAYS: Mon. - Fri: 7.30am & 10am

Sat: 10am

Sat Vigil: 6pm

SUNDAYS: 9am, 11am & 6pm

CHURCH OF THE IRISH MARTYRS, BALLYCANE

WEDNESDAYS: 7pm

SATURDAYS: 7.30pm

SUNDAYS: 10.30am & 12noon

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Mon. - Fri, 10am - 6pm Ballycane Church

OUR LADY & THE GUARDIAN ANGELS, SALLINS

WEEKDAYS: Fri: 10am

(Tuesday morning Mass is postponed until further notice)

Sat Vigil: 6.30pm

SUNDAYS: 10am & 12noon

CHURCH OF ST PETER, TWO MILE HOUSE

WEEKDAYS: Mon. - Fri.: 9.30am

SUNDAYS: 11am

Confessions take place in Sallins Church on Thursdays 2pm - 4pm and in Our Lady & St David's Church on Saturdays after the 10am Mass.

Children's Rosary Group: Would you like your child to learn the Rosary and develop deep roots in faith? **Families are invited to bring their children to come and pray the Rosary together every Saturday at 6pm in Our Lady & the Guardian Angels Church, Sallins. All welcome!**



To mark the feast day of the Presentation of the Lord, the Rosary will be prayed at 5.30pm at the grotto outside OLSD on Wednesday 2nd February.

St Brigid - Our Patron Saint whose story speaks to the Modern World...

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Thus, the Brigid we visualise today is a fusion of multiple traditions. There is, on the one hand, the very old Celtic regard for a female figure which represented the goodness of nature and the promise of kinder days and, separately but intertwined, the Christian Brigid who is believed to be a real person renowned for her charity and humanity endowed with powers of intercession to God empowering her to bring healing and support to people she encountered in her ministry.

This mingling of traditions is demonstrated so tangibly in the beloved St Brigid's cross which is woven with so much enthusiasm by children in our primary schools at this time of year. The spokes of the cross symbolised for our ancestors the

rays of the sun becoming notably brighter as spring arrived while for Christian communities the St Brigid's cross represents a distinctively Irish variation faithful to the cross of Christ.

For all their ancient origins, the Brigid stories speak across the years to the concerns of today's world. People committed to social justice, to care for the environment, and to empowering the role of women in modern society, all find inspiration in the recollection of Brigid - a woman whose faith-based leadership combined concerns for her fellow humans and for the natural world with a strong sense of prayer and spirituality.

(Written by Liam Kenny)

(Picture: www.theirishplace.com)

Thank you to our Stewards

I want to take the opportunity this weekend to say a word of thanks and appreciation to our stewards for their generous commitment and dedication in exercising a necessary and vital function in all three parishes. Back in 2020 when public worship was allowed, it was stipulated as part of that re-opening that all churches have in place stewards who would offer direction and guidance. Over the following two years amid the various lockdowns, they generously rolled up their sleeves and on each return to public worship faithfully reported for duty.

Their presence was reassuring as reflected in the overwhelming comments of appreciation by parishioners and visitors to our parishes, who commented favourably on their presence. Now, with the lifting of restrictions last weekend, the stewards will take a well earned break.

However, maybe not a long break! As stewards, I would love to see them involved in other parish events and occasions for example The Novena, Christmas Masses, etc. Therefore, fulfilling the important ministry of welcome and hospitality.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Parish Team and on behalf of all parishioners, thank you! While expressing thanks this weekend, **I want to acknowledge also those volunteers who, over the last two years, cleaned, cared for and sanitised our Churches, every day!** A remarkable contribution. To all of you, I express heartfelt thanks. All the above was ably co-ordinated by two parishioners, Caroline and Mary.

Fr. Liam



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas

Wednesday 2nd February

To celebrate Candlemas, we invite you to bring along candles to the Church of Our Lady and St David to be blessed. **Please label/wrap your candles securely and clearly with your name, place your candles in the basket provided in the Church in**

OLSD. Your candles will be blessed on Candlemas Day, at the 10am Mass, and left in the basket for you to collect afterwards. If you do not have candles and would like to purchase some, they are now available in the Parish Shop (Sallins Road only).



POPE JOHN PAUL II
AWARD

The Pope John Paul II Award 2022

The Pope John Paul Award is a Diocesan programme which encourages and acknowledges the participation of young people in Transition Year and above to participate in the life of their community and their parish. Each year we have had a number of young people from Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House participate in and achieve this award at Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards.

Some of the projects from last year included: reading at Mass, coaching/mentoring sports teams, making videos for the parish, shopping for neighbours during lockdown, tidy towns, parish youth group activities, mercy leaders, school prefects, pilgrimage day in Glendalough.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone in this age group who might be interested in taking part this year. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Trish in the parish office at trish.oneill@naasparish.net.

Synod News: A Listening Lent: Preparations are beginning across the diocese to open up a variety of listening forums in Lent so that we can listen to people's experience of faith and walking together in faith, of being part of the community of the Church and our hopes for the Church into the future as we seek to bring God's love to the world. Look out for our first video in the coming week inviting you to take part in a Listening Lent. See www.kandle.ie/synod and www.synod.ie to learn more about the synod and the synodal pathway for the Irish Church.

You are invited to participate in celebrating Féile Bríde 2022, January 31st –February 6th

There are in-person and online events, booking for both is essential. The full programme of events is available on www.solasbhride.ie. They will also post updates on their Facebook page [Solas Bhride Centre & Hermitages CLG](https://www.facebook.com/SolasBhride) or you can phone 045 522 890 for further information.

Naas Parish Weekly Lotto Draw!

You could win a jackpot of €8,750 on Wednesday 2nd February!

There was **NO WINNER** of the €8,500 Jackpot on Wednesday last 26th January.

Numbers Drawn were:

26 - 13 - 15 - 17;

Winners of the Lucky Dip €100 prizes were:

C. Burke, M. Lalor, R. Holohan, Anon.

