

# Parish Newsletter

**Church of Our Lady & the Guardian Angels**  
**Centenary Edition**

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**29th September 2024**

No: 1965

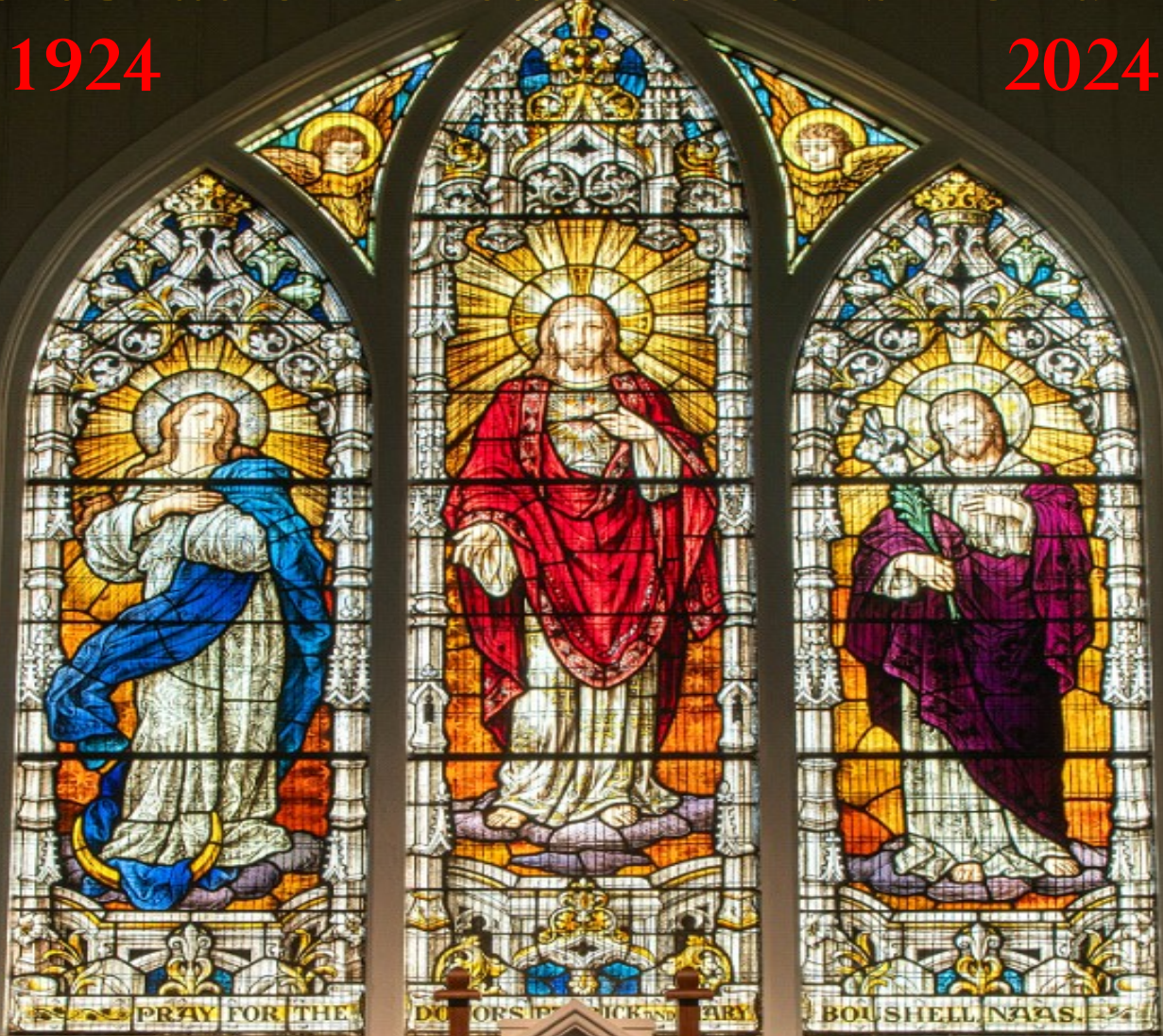
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



## Celebration of Sallins Parish Church

1924

2024



*“Lord, I love the beauty of your house,  
the place where your glory dwells” (Ps.26)*

## Message from Fr. Liam.

I extend a Céad Míle Fáilte on this day of celebration and rejoicing to Bishop Denis, invited guests and parishioners of Sallins Parish.

Today we mark and celebrate the completion of improvement works to our Parish Church.

Our Church, dedicated to Our Lady and the Guardian Angels is a unique building. It stands nestled in the heart of our village – a thriving village that has grown and expanded at a rapid pace in recent years, now so rich and diverse in culture and tradition.

Our ‘tin’ church is where key milestones of human life are marked and honoured. From life’s welcome beginning in Baptism, to journey’s end when we return to God. It is the venue for family celebrations: First Holy Communions, Confirmations and Weddings. All who pass through its doors experience consolation, peace and welcome. It is an oasis of calm and prayer amid the activity of a busy commuter village/town.

As we gather this weekend, I think all of us can feel proud of the new look achieved to the interior of our church.

I want to pay tribute to Gavin Duignan from ICS Church Furnishers based in Dromod, Co. Leitrim for his excellent advice and his vision in achieving this welcome transformation. Gavin designed the new sanctuary layout and manufactured the beautiful new furniture. He advised us on all matters relating to the project. I also want to pay tribute to the local tradesmen and suppliers who delivered on the other essential aspects that have helped to achieve the overall success. In particular, thanks are due to our painters, Philip Stynes Painting and Decorating Services, our electricians from JTM Electrical, Burke Bros Joinery who manufactured our beautiful new sanctuary doors, Mongey Communications who aided us so ably on the sound, Michael Murphy Home Furnishings for our lovely new carpet and Dominic Treacy Heating and Plumbing. We couldn’t have done it without you all. Thank you.

I would like to acknowledge the input and support given by our Parish Finance Committee and Sallins Parish Pastoral Council. In particular, the Finance Sub-Committee who engaged so enthusiastically with the project, guiding the refurbishment to its final completion.

**(Sub-Committee:** Mary McConnon, Geraldine Sexton, Kieran O’Keeffe and Fr. Liam Morgan).

My sincere thanks to you, the parishioners of Sallins Parish: so faithful, supportive and always encouraging. Our Church in its Centenary Year stands as a fitting testimony to your steadfast faith and the goodness of the people who have crossed the threshold of this beautiful and unique church over the past 100 years and who have helped it to endure. Many people have helped in quiet ways and continue to do so today. We gratefully remember and honour them all, past and present.

Finally, to Ann and Eithne, who as ‘Volunteer Sacristans’ care for and look after our Church with exceptional dedication and commitment. To Tom, who keeps a watchful eye in opening and closing the Church, and to Benji for his care and commitment to the Church itself. I also want to especially acknowledge Mick Corley who helped us out greatly in his usual quiet way.

Bishop Denis, thank you for accepting our invitation to re-dedicate and bless our new altar and sanctuary.

And so, to the next one hundred years...le Cúnamh Dé!



## Sallins Church, 1924 - 2024

*The Sanctuary before our Centenary Refurbishment ...*



*The Sanctuary now as we celebrate 100 years of praise & worship...*



# Sallins Church of Our Lady and the Guardian Angels at 100

by Liam Kenny



*“A long-felt want supplied”* ran the headline of the Leinster Leader on the first Saturday of October 1924 as the paper previewed the ceremonial opening of the new church in Sallins the following day. But Sallins Church was no standard edifice of brick-and-stone. Instead, it had arrived months previously in a packaged format similar to an “Ikea” flat-pack of today. It was a carefully dimensioned kit of corrugated metal for the exterior and of finished wood planks for the interior manufactured by the firm of Harrison and Company in South London.

The building-kit arrived ready for erection accompanied by a crew of tradesmen from the firm. One of those Londoners, Edward Laxton, found love in the canal-side village where he settled and raised a family whose distinctive surname continues in the locality.

Today, Sallins church is near-unique in its architectural style – only one other Catholic church in the hills of south Tipperary holds the same status of a church made entirely of tin and still open for daily prayer more than a hundred years later.

But how did Sallins acquire this gem of pastoral architecture? – and why tin?

In the early 1900s Mass-goers in Sallins petitioned the parish priest Very Rev. Fr. Norris for a church to save them the journey to the parish church in Naas. Plans were drafted and a committee of local merchants – Healy and Flanagan prominent among them – began to raise money.

However, the outbreak of the First World War put paid to fund-raising; by 1920 money was scarce but the need for a chapel remained. Fr. Norris, although advanced in age, was alternative in his thinking, and decided to meet his parishioners’ request in a practical way by ordering a ‘tin’ church from the firm of Harrison & Co. in South London.

Although unusual in Ireland such kit-built churches were common throughout Britain and its colonies. They were deployed by all creeds wherever the pastoral service of a new population needed a rapidly built church. Examples were situated in mission stations, frontier towns, mining camps and military outposts.





Nor was the pre-fabricated style confined to churches – minus the crucifixes at each gable, similar buildings of corrugated zinc panels were functioned as parish halls, cricket pavilions, hospital wards and residential dwellings.

The assembly of Sallins Church was completed by the spring of 1924 and the following months were occupied with internal furnishing. The altar made of pitch pine was the gift of a Miss Condron of Eadestown. The external bell which predates the church by sixty years also came from the Eadestown direction, the gift of its parish priest V. Rev. Fr. Lockhart, PP. Closer to home, Mrs B. Hourihane, of Sallins National School, donated paintings of St. Patrick and St. Brigid while the Boushell family gifted the churches' only stained-glass window which forms a backdrop to the altar. Farmers in the Sallins area lent their horses and carts to the building contractors. A Mrs Reddy of an old Sallins family was recorded as being generous in her support.

Additional internal carpentry was the work of Mr D. Smyth, local woodworker, and Denis Corcoran of the renowned Naas builders erected the bell on its external gantry.

And so a day long anticipated by the Sallins faithful arrived and on 5 October 1924, Fr. Norris, PP, solemnly blessed the new chapel having received authorisation from Bishop Foley of Kildare & Leighlin, who had been invited but was indisposed.

In the inaugural homily Fr. Norris congratulated his parishioners on achieving a church of their own and one dedicated to Our Lady & the Guardian Angels.

A century onwards, Sallins Church of Our Lady & the Guardian Angels retains its distinctive mission-chapel profile, its pristine tin fabric bearing witness to its place in the hearts and minds of its congregations over a century and counting.

**“Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them”**

*Exodus 25:8–9*





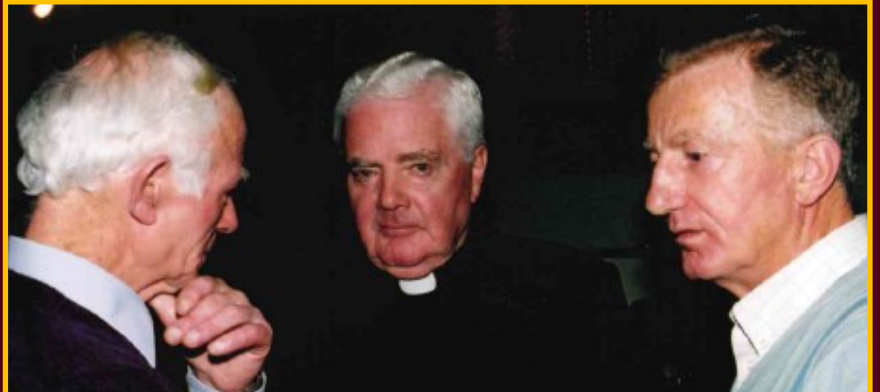
Sallins Confirmation Class 1980, with Bishop Lennon & Fr. Newman.



An Garraí Beag, KDSI, thriving & growing since 2019.



Fr. Kevin, Fr. John and Moira Humphries.



Fr. Colum Swan at the celebration for his retirement in 2004.



Sallins PPC: Dermot McGilloy, Fr. Liam, Tom Carney, Gillian Fitzharris, Geraldine Sexton and Tara Kenna. Missing from the photo: Eithne Ni Fhlathartaigh, Phil O'Keeffe, David Monaghan and Mary Humphries.



Fr. Michael with Moira Humphries at the opening of the Cluain Mhuire Meeting Rooms, the Playground and the KDSI Horticultural Centre in 2019.



Fr. Alex Kochatt, Curate from 2016 to 2024, pictured here with parishioners before his return to India last May.



Bishop Denis at the Celebrations for the 90th Anniversary of Sallins Church.

We are blessed in our **Sacristans:** Ann Moran & Eithne Ni Fhlathartaigh. On behalf of all parishioners, we say 'thank you' for your time, dedication and commitment. Two exceptional volunteers!



**Liturgy Group:** Tara Kenna, Pauline Beda, Tom Carney, Kitty Collins.



**Sallins Finance Committee:** Mary McConnon, Tom Cross, Geraldine Sexton, Fr. Liam and Garrett Prendeville. Missing: Kieran O'Keeffe and Brian Kenny.



Mary Humphries with Ann Behan after Mary received her Benemerenti Medal.



Fr. Robert baptising a baby in Sallins Church.



Brian Whelan outside Sallins Church after his First Holy Communion. In the background, the old Parochial House and storage area.



## Parish Novena

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help

*“Trust in God still and trust in me”*

**Fri. 4th - Sat. 12th October 2024**

*Starts on Friday at 7.30pm in*

*the Church of Our Lady & St. David.*

*Petition slips are now available in all four Churches along with boxes to place them in.*

*Please join us for Teas & Coffees in St. Mary's College after Mass on Sat. 12th.*

## Parish Social Celebration

*Naas, Sallins and Two Mile House*

**Friday 1st November,  
Lawlors Hotel.**

*Drinks Reception: 6.30pm and Dinner: 7pm  
followed by Music, Dancing & Spot Prizes.*

*Tickets are €50 each and will be available  
after Masses in Sallins Church on the weekend  
of 5th and 6th October and from the Parish  
Office & Shop on the Sallins Road.*

***A Fun Evening for All!***



## First Thursday Eucharistic Adoration

*Ballycane Day Chapel*

*9.15pm - 10.15pm on Thurs. 3rd Oct.*

**All are Welcome.**

## Care of the Aged Centre Newbridge Road:

*Our **Over 60s Cafe** opened on Friday and it was  
enjoyed by all. It will be open 10.30am - 1pm Mon-Fri.  
On **Thursday mornings** we are starting **Knitting/  
Crocheting** classes from 10.30am to 12.30.*



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

*Jacqueline Reardon, formerly  
St. Conleth's Place*

*Anne O'Connor, McAuley Place*

*Kathleen Byrne, Lakeside Park*

*James Lawlor Jr., formerly Osberstown*

***MAY THEY REST IN PEACE***

## Recent Baptisms

**Cillian Kelly, Esmondale**

**Gio Cassells, Castlefarm**

**Maia Kerley, Brannockstown**

**Mara McMahon, The Orchard**

**Callie Mooney, Osberstown**

**Mason Murphy, Oak Park Green**

**Ruairí Miley, Piper's Hill**

## PARISH FINANCES

**Naas:** Development Fund: €3,485 Offertory: €2,635

**Online donations** (19th - 25th Sept.): €92

**Tap&Go** (19th - 25th Sept.): €595

**Sallins:** Envelopes: €305 Baskets: €540

**TMH:** €445

## Naas Local History Group present:

*"The long arm of Dan Donnelly" - an illustrated  
talk by Larry Breen about the  
champion boxer who gave his name  
to "Donnelly's Hollow" on the Curragh.  
Tuesday, 1st October, 8pm, Town  
House Hotel, Naas. **All are welcome** .*



## St. Mary's College, Naas - Enrolment '25

*Our application process for Sept. 2025 starts on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.*

- 1st Year Application Form and more info available on [www.stmaryscollegenaas.ie](http://www.stmaryscollegenaas.ie)*
- Completed Application Forms will only be accepted from Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> (Enrolment Period). *Applications received outside this period will be marked as late.**

## Naas Parish Weekly Lotto Draw

**There was no winner of the €8,800 on 25th Sept.**

**Numbers Drawn were: 6-25-8-4**

**Lucky Dip: M. Nolan, M. McGrath, Anon., V. Keogh**

**You could win the Jackpot of €9,050 on Weds. 2nd October**

**Thank you for your support!**