

First reading

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:

Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God;

Today's Mass Readings

and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: 'He will be called a Nazarene.'

The Gospel of the Lord



ARLES DOONANE PARISH NEWSLETTER

SERVING ARLES, BALLYLINAN, DOONANE, KILLEEN AND MAYO

The Holy Family

28th December 2025

How the Holy Family prayed:

A Reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

"I would like to invite you to reflect on the place of prayer in the life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The home of Nazareth, in fact, is a school of prayer where we learn to listen, to ponder and to penetrate the profound meaning of the manifestation of the Son of God, drawing our example from Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Pope Paul VI during his visit to Nazareth said "we come to understand the need for a spiritual discipline, if we wish to follow the teaching of the Gospel and become disciples of Christ." And he added: "First, it teaches us silence. Oh! That there would be reborn in us the esteem for silence, that wonderful and indispensable atmosphere of the spirit: while we are deafened by so many noises, sounds and clamorous voices in the frantic and tumultuous times of modern life. Oh! Silence of Nazareth, teach us to be resolute in good thoughts, intent upon the interior life, ready to listen well to the secret inspirations of God and the exhortations of the true masters."

We can glean several insights on the Holy Family's prayer and relationship with God from the Gospel accounts of Jesus' childhood. We may begin with the Presentation of Jesus in the temple.



St. Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph, "when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, brought the child up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" (2:22). Like every observant Jewish family, Jesus' parents go up to the temple to consecrate the firstborn son to God and to offer sacrifice. Moved by fidelity to the law's prescriptions, they set off from Bethlehem and go up to Jerusalem with Jesus, who is now forty days old. Instead of a one-year-old lamb, they present the offering of simple families; that is two young pigeons. The Holy Family's pilgrimage is one of faith, of the offering of gifts, a symbol of prayer, and of encounter with the Lord, whom Mary and Joseph already see in their son Jesus."

Religious Services to attend

Morning Mass (Arles): 10am Tuesday - Friday

Recitation of the Rosary (Arles): 9.30am Tuesday - Friday

Confession: After 10am Arles Mass (First Friday)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Tues. 11am-1pm (Killeen), Wed. 10am-9pm (Doonane) & Fri. 7.30pm-8.30pm (Ballylinan)

In Memoriam

Anniversaries for 28 December 2025

Ballylinan (7pm): Nell Cooney

Michael Henry McDonald

Joe Kelly, The Pike & deceased family members

Doonane (8pm):

Killeen (9am): Elizabeth, Edward and John Kelly

Arles (10am): Tom Bolton, The Strand (11th Anniversary)

Christopher Bolton

John McDonald, Ashfield (3rd Anniversary)

Paul Day (4th Anniversary)

Mayo (11.30am): Annie Connolly, Bilboa

Seamus Byrne, Farnans

Christina Rowan, Doonane Terrace

Anniversaries for 04 January 2026

Ballylinan (7pm): Thomas Walsh, Carlow Road

Paddy McEvoy, Rahin

Doonane (8pm):

Killeen (9am): Oliver Byrne (1st Anniversary)

Paddy Warren

Tom Myron & deceased family members

Thomas Fitzpatrick (30th Anniversary) & his wife Peggy Fitzpatrick.

Arles (10am): Jim Scully, Ballinakill

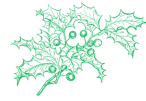
Mayo (11.30am):

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

Safeguarding

DLP: Kathleen Sherry, mobile number 085-8021633 and email: dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149



New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

- Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

Parish Office & Shop

The Parish Office is closed for the holidays and will reopen again at 10am on Tuesday 6th January.

Thanks to you all for using the Office and Shop over the past year.



Feast of Mary

Mother of God

January 1st

This oldest feast of Mary, comes on the 8th day of the Octave of Christmas, the

World Day of Peace and at the start of a new year. It is a powerful reminder to us of the presence of Mary in the life of the Church and in our lives. Mary is our mother, too, and we can turn to her in every moment of need, knowing that she will intercede with God for us. Take time today to pause and think of what Mary means to you personally and to pray a Hail Mary.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Mary, Helper of all in need, pray for us.



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Christmas Station Collection

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Feast of the Holy Family



A Prayer for the Family

God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray. (pause)

Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Feast of the Epiphany

Tuesday 6th January

Mass time:

Arles 10am

