

## First reading

A reading from the first book of Samuel



Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Response: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

## Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ;

## TODAY'S MASS READINGS

do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

## Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord



# CONTACT



ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

17th January 2021

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## A Response to the Mother and Baby Homes Commission Report

I am very conscious that the past couple of days have been harrowingly hard on mothers and their children. I didn't rush to respond, because I believe we must read all 3,000 pages of the Commission's Report, it is not enough to read the 76-page summary. As Archbishop Eamon said in his statement "I ask all those who are in positions of leadership in the Church to study this lengthy report carefully and especially to spend time reflecting on the courageous testimonies of the witnesses to the Commission". This is exactly what I am doing.

I welcome the publication of this report which details the period 1922 to 1998, fourteen Mother and Baby Homes and four County Homes. The report covers a very sad chapter in our history. The women who lived in these homes, came from parishes all over the country and while there were no Mother and Baby Homes in Kildare & Leighlin, I am in no doubt that many from our parishes were resident for a time in these homes. I sincerely acknowledge the part played by our Church, by my Church, in contributing to a culture that was harsh, controlling and judgemental.

I am very aware of the plight of survivors. As Church we failed so many, and for this I ask forgiveness. No amount of words will ever heal the hurt or soothe the wound but be certain of my absolute and unreserved apology.

My prayer is that the reading of this report will acknowledge our past, recognise our present and work together towards a better future for all mothers and children, indeed for all families. The intentions of Pope Francis for the month of February are "for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded", the publication of the Commission's report last Tuesday contributes to making this intention very real for us today.

+Denis

Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin

14 January 2021



# In Memoriam

*This Mass is broadcast on radio Medium 109*

## Anniversaries for 17 Jan

(11.30am): John McHugh, Altona  
Ita Hyland, Boley

## Anniversaries for 24 Jan

(11.30am):



## Parish Office & Shop

Tuesday & Friday 10am –12noon

The Parish Office will remain closed for the duration of this phase of lockdown.

Emails will be monitored during this time.

Please contact us at:

arlesparish@gmail.com



### Safeguarding

DLP: Mick Daly, mobile number 085-8021633 and email: dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149



### Parish Contact Details

Fr. Pdraig Shelley PP (059) 914 7637

Fr. Tommy O'Shea PE (059) 862 5261

Parish Office: ☎ (059) 862 5456

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We continue to wear a mask to protect ourselves and others.



## An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.



Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

*Thank you for your continued support of our Covid 19 practices .*



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th-25 January.

For 2021, it has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Parish and home resources for this week can be accessed on the following link: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

COVID-19 Support Line  
for Older People



ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.



## Arts Act Grants 2021

Provision has been made by Laois County Council for the payment of grants to Laois arts organisations and individuals who meet the artistic and financial criteria set down by Laois County Council and who provide adequate information on their proposed activities. Maximum amount payable will not exceed €1000.

Details and application forms available from: The Arts Office, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. T: 057 8664033 E: artsoff@laoiscoco.ie W: ww.w.laois.ie. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday 25th February 2021.

