



TODAY'S MASS READINGS

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St. John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said: 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

10th January 2021

The Baptism of the Lord



Baptism of the Lord

The baptism of Jesus immerses him in the life of the people. He joined the queue of people for John's baptism, wanting to share the joys and sorrows of his people. In the depths of the water he entered into the depths of his own humanity and the depths of his people.

Fully part of us

We could say that Jesus has entered into that part of all of us which laughs and sings, dances and cries, feels for the sick and the suffering, desires the best for self and others; nothing human is foreign to him as he was baptised into the life of his people and the God of his ancestors.

At our baptism he enters fully into our lives. At the time when we are most vulnerable, the church and our family celebrate the love of God for us, and that God will call us into his service. At baptism we are twice anointed – once with the protection of God, and then anointed for service. The words spoken to Jesus are spoken for all of us – you are my son, my daughter, the beloved – my favour rests on you.

Men and Women for others

Baptism in the Jordan gave Jesus the start and strength for his service of God's people. Our baptism gives a grace and help we can call on any time to give our lives as best we can in God's service in the service of others. We are called to be men and women for others, as Jesus was a man of love for all whom he met.

Lord teach me to be generous, to give and not to count the cost, for fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to seek reward, save only that of knowing that I do your holy will (Prayer of St Ignatius Loyola). Donal Neary SJ

In Memoriam

This Mass is broadcast on radio Medium 109

Anniversaries for 10 Jan

(11.30am): Eamon Behan
Edward Doogue,
James Scully

Anniversaries for 17 Jan

(11.30am): John McHugh, Altona



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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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.



*When I was young, I admired clever people.
Now that I am old, I admire kind people.*

~Abraham Heschel~



Parish Donations

For secure Online Donations to our Parish Collections

Please use the Donate Button on our parish website arlesparish.ie



At the top of this message is a photo filled with the faces of the absolutely amazing children from the Mbuti community in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – one of the ten poorest countries in the world.

During the Ebola virus outbreak there, love like yours touched each of those village children. Today your love is there still.

And if we can start the new year with your love by our side, then hope and humanity are not lost.

Not during Covid, and not ever.

Thank you, now and forever, from all of us at Trócaire. Here's to building a better world in 2021.

Keep safe – and God bless,

Caoimhe de Barra
CEO, Trócaire



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois

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.



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

Christmas Collection

Thank You

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to all our collections over the Christmas and during the past year. Your kindness is much appreciated in these difficult times.

