

## First reading

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. They burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "the Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."' "

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Response: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

## Second reading

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

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord

## Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



# CONTACT



ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

14th March 2021

4th Sunday of Lent



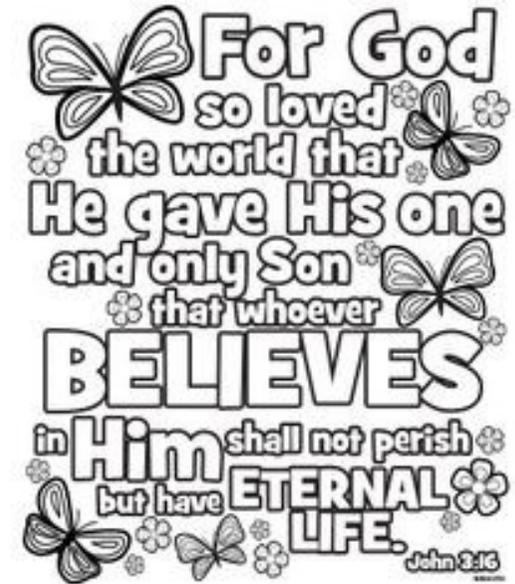
## From our Gospel today ...

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him".*

## Reflection

It has been said that if all the Gospels were lost except the first verse in this passage, we would have enough to survive. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son!' This is the heart of the Good News, and hopefully we shall be eternally grateful for it.

Another way to sum up the New Testament is the little word 'FOR'. God is totally 'for' us, and asks us to be totally 'for' him and 'for' one another. There are no strings or stings attached to God's loving. Nor must there be any strings or stings in the quality of my loving.



# In Memoriam

*This Mass is broadcast on radio Medium 109*

**We pray for:** Mary Kerr (nee McDonnell), formerly of Rahin, who died in England during the past week.

## Anniversaries for 14 March

(11.30am): Liam Brennan, Ballylinan (2nd Anniv)  
Paddy Brennan, The Strand  
(1st Anniv.)

## Anniversaries for 21 March

(11.30am): Michael and Sarah Loughman,  
Ballylinan  
Brian and Mary Hurley, Ballylinan

## Parish Office & Shop

From this Tuesday the Parish Office will open for reduced hours (10-12 Tuesday only) to facilitate those who wish to get a mass card, book an anniversary, or drop in their parish envelope offering, etc.

### Safeguarding

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

✉ [arlesparish@gmail.com](mailto:arlesparish@gmail.com)

## Parish Donations

For secure Online Donations to our Parish Collections  
Please use the Donate Button on our parish website [arlesparish.ie](http://arlesparish.ie)



## An Act of Spiritual Communion

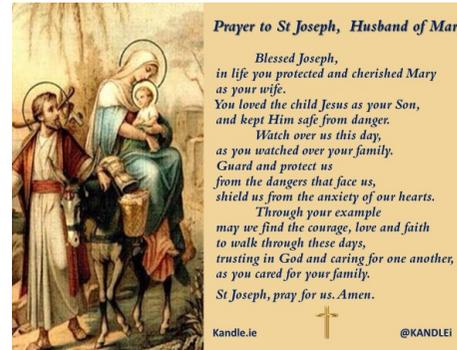
My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

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.



## Mini-Lenten Retreat in preparation for Holy Week 2021

In preparation for the Easter Triduum, 'The Hook of Faith' is happy to offer a 'Mini-Lenten Retreat in Preparation for Holy Week' on Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March. The retreat will be held on Zoom and will be led by Fr Billy Swan. Each conference begins at 8pm.

The three conferences will anticipate the Triduum and will therefore focus on the Eucharist (Tues. 23rd); the Cross and the Mystery of Suffering (Wed. 24th); the Resurrection, Joy and Hope (Thurs. 25th).

To take part, all you need to do is send an email to: [thehookoffaith@gmail.com](mailto:thehookoffaith@gmail.com)

All are welcome.



## St. Patrick's Day Mass Time



Wednesday

10am



The Rosary is a long chain that links heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the holy virgin. (St. Therese of Lisieux)

## Lough Derg Mass on RTE

Sunday 21st March

RTE Studio Broadcast Mass at

11am will be celebrated by

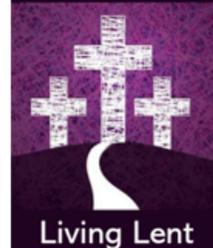
Msgr La Flynn, Prior of Lough

Derg along with the Lough Derg Pastoral and Music teams. The Mass will be offered for the Lough Derg pilgrim family near and far. Tune into RTE 1 Television or RTE

Radio 1.



## Digging Deeper



## Fourth Sunday of Lent: Some Suggestions for the Week

- + Persevere in your chosen resolutions for Lent and remember their purpose is to bring you closer to God
- + Pray the Mysteries of Light and /or the Sorrowful Mysteries
- + Be kind to your mammy throughout the week!
- + Check the energy efficiency of your light bulbs and change them if necessary
- + Look out for someone who might need your help and offer it
- + Visit a church, light a candle and say a prayer
- + Turn off lights when not in use