

Today's Mass Readings

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT



ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

02nd May 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

The Deep End – Bound Together

Have you ever visited a vineyard, with its rows of vines, heavy with clusters of ripe grapes? If you're not familiar with vines, think of an apple tree laden with apples, or a fruit bush ripe for picking. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine to describe his relationship with his disciples. He tells them that he is the vine, and they are the branches. The life of Jesus flows into us and sustains us, and this is the reason our lives can bear fruit in love, in kindness, patience, compassion and welcome. The symbolism of the vine works on many levels. If a branch is separated from the vine, it cannot flourish on its own. It must be connected to the vine from which it gets its nourishment. Each of us must be firmly rooted in Jesus and nourish that relationship. He invites us to 'remain' in him - to rest in him, to be part of him. And if you look at a vine plant, often its branches are so entangled, it can be hard to know where one ends and another begins.



We note that Jesus is addressing the disciples as a group rather than as individuals: 'you are the branches'. We are a community, and we grow together, bound together by the love of God. Today, we reflect on what it means to be so intimately connected with Jesus, the true vine. We bring to mind the many gifts he has given us, and the ways in which his love bears fruit in our lives.

Written for the Intercom Magazine by
Triona Doherty



First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St. John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

In Memoriam

Anniversaries for 2nd May 2021

(10am): Joe Mahon (1st Anniv)
Arnold Mahon (Months Mind)
Bridie Kaye, Ballylinan (1st Anniv)

Anniversaries for 9th May 2021

(10am): Paul Davis, Ballylinan



A Prayer of Blessing for Fr. Tommy

Next Wednesday will see Fr. Tommy take up residence in Gowran Abbey Nursing Home, Co. Kilkenny. We pray that Fr. Tommy will enjoy many happy years of secure retirement.

Lord, go before me and make everything work out for my good.

I place my confidence in you because I know you are watching over me, and you never slumber.

You are keeping me from harm.

Thank you, Father, for protecting me.

Jesus, I trust in you,

Amen.

Parish Donations

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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.



Parish Office & Shop

Each 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.

Lockdown Mass Schedule

Join in the celebration of the Mass from the Church of the Sacred Heart, Arles via Parish Webcam (arlesparish.ie)

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday - Saturday 10am

Preceded by Rosary at 9.30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 10.30am - 11.30am

Sunday Mass

10am

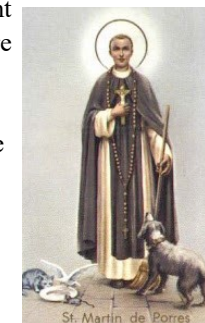


A word of thanks to Bishop Denis who celebrated a lovely Mass of Appreciation for Fr. Tommy last Wednesday. A fitting tribute, indeed.

Prayer to St Martin De Porres.

Most humble St. Martin, whose burning charity embraces all, but especially those who are sick, afflicted, or in need, we turn to thee for help in our present difficulties and we implore thee to obtain for us from God health of soul and body, and in particular the favour we now ask ... (pause to ask favours).

May we, by imitating thy charity and humility, find quiet and contentment all our days, and cheerful submission to God's holy will in all the trials and difficulties of life. Amen.



CHURCH RE-OPENING

The announcement this week by Micheál Martin that public religious ceremonies are permissible from May 10th is very welcome news. We have waited a long time to gather together as a community and this now gives us the opportunity to come back to Church and to partake fully in the Eucharist.

It is still important to remember that we gather under a controlled environment where people will need to wear face masks and exercise social distancing at our ceremonies. It is also only permissible to have 50 people gathered in our churches. When you examine the government announcement regarding public worship in more detail we find that First Communion and Confirmation celebrations are not permissible at this time. Neither are large outdoor gatherings such as Graveyard Masses. While this is disappointing, we should not forget that only 30% of the nation has received a vaccine, so there is still a considerable threat to public health as society re-opens.

I hope to resume our weekend mass schedule from 15th May (Saturday: Ballylinan 8pm. Sunday: Killeen 9am, Arles 10am & Ballylinan 11.30am). Where we may see some change in our mass schedule is in our weekday masses. During this lockdown period we have enjoyed the use of the parish webcam, and more and more people are using it and sharing in our masses. Ironically, the numbers sharing in our week day masses is now far greater than when we gathered before lockdown thanks to the webcam. While it is important that we have a congregation in church for mass, it is important also to enable those who feel more secure at home to continue to share in our masses. By saying weekday masses in the other churches, we exclude those who will still want to join us online.

Before we publish our mass schedule next weekend, I would welcome comments or views on this matter. I would also be interested to hear if we should continue with our Holy Hour on Friday mornings.



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