



TODAY'S MASS READINGS

First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St. John.

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the

love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT



ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

09th May 2021

6th Sunday of Easter

Reflection

Servanthood is the mark of true Christian living. Jesus emphasized this during the Last Supper, saying that he came not to be served, but to serve, and that likewise we should serve one another. In his parables, he often referred to believers as "servants" of the Kingdom. But in this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus says that he wants us to be his friends, not his slaves. Is he contradicting himself? Not at all! Friends serve because they care. Slaves serve because of duty and the fear of punishment.

Jesus said, "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love." Do we hear this as a friend or as a slave? Slaves are afraid of what will happen if they fail to keep God's commandments; they are self-protective. Friends are eager to find out what God commands, because they view the commandments from the perspective of love, as opportunities to serve; they are other-oriented.

Jesus said, "This is my commandment: Love one another the way I love you." It's the supreme commandment; call it the Commandment of Friendship. He says, "You know how I love you, my friends: I openly share with you everything that the Father tells me." His friends realize that what he shares (through scripture and through the Church) reveals our opportunities to love. Every commandment is rooted in love. Every Church teaching is based on scriptures that help us know when and how to love.

Friends know that God always loves them, and in this love, they are free to serve one another joyfully.



In Memoriam

Anniversaries for 9 May

Arles (10am): Paul Davis, Ballylinan
Paddy Kelly, Ashfield (2nd Anniv)

Anniversaries for 15 / 16 May

Killeen (9am):
Arles (10am):
Ballylinan (8pm):
(11.30am): Margaret & William Bambrick, and
their daughters Pauline & Mary



Parish Donations

For secure Online Donations to
our Parish Collections

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

Parish Office

(059) 862 5456

Opening Hours

Tuesday: 10am - 1pm

Friday: 10am - 1pm

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses:

*Mass from the Church of the Sacred Heart,
Arles can be viewed via Parish Webcam
(arlesparish.ie)*

Tuesday - Friday 10am

Preceded by Rosary at 9.30am

with

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday 10.30am - 11.30am



Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 8pm Ballylinan

Sunday: 9am Killeen

10am Arles

11.30am Ballylinan

A maximum of 50 people are permitted to attend masses at this time.

I would like to thank those who, during the past week, shared their views with me about our weekday mass rota. Most people felt that it was more inclusive to celebrate mass each morning in Arles so that those who wish to attend in person, and also those who wish to join over the webcam, can all take part. We must be mindful that our return to public masses will be a slow process. While it would be lovely to see many people in church we must respect that some people may be slow to return for fear of infection. At least with the webcam people can still participate. I am also mindful of people who cannot get to church because they are unwell, housebound, or are caring for a sick family member. I would also like to thank those parishioners from Ballylinan and Killeen who have supported this change. These are indeed challenging times as we react and respond to multiple changes in our parish and the wider society.

Resumption of Public Worship with ongoing restrictions

Some timely reminders ...

May 5, 2021

It is a great source of relief and joy that we can re-open our churches for public worship as of next Monday May 10th. From this date the numbers of people who can attend religious services are as follows:

Parish Masses: 50

Funerals: capped at 50 regardless of size of church

Weddings: capped at 50 regardless of size of church (but only 6 attending reception)

How parishes manage these numbers will vary given local circumstances, but each parish will have to decide the best method for themselves.

Note on Confirmation and First Holy Communion: I have always said there is absolutely no expiry date on sacraments or when they can be received. Current Government Guidelines expressly advise against 'religious ceremonies such as Communion and Confirmations' taking place at this time. The situation can be reviewed again in June when consideration will be given as to whether Confirmation in small groups is possible, in line with public health advice, in the latter end of the month. I will advise on same closer to the time. We are all aware that things can change at very short notice.

Hand hygiene, social distancing, appropriate signage and the sanitisation of church buildings and other parish facilities remain priorities of action in all parishes. Good and friendly stewarding is essential and very much appreciated after the last lockdown. While by law the wearing of facemasks in places of worship is not mandatory, it is however listed by the government as a place where facemasks are recommended. The Irish Bishops' Conference has already stated in its guidelines that facemasks be worn in churches. I am reiterating this guideline.

Ministers of Holy Communion are to wear facemasks for the duration of the Mass. They are to sanitise their hands before and after distribution. Holy Communion is still to be given on the hand, not on the tongue.

Readers should be encouraged to sanitise their hands before and after reading. They can remove their facemask at the ambo when proclaiming scripture and put it on once more before returning to their place.

It is not yet possible to draw on the ministry of choirs. A cantor and instrumentalist should be socially distanced from one another and from the congregation.

Holy water fonts are to remain empty.

These past five months haven't been easy on any of us. While we look forward to the return of 'congregations' we must remain constantly vigilant and alert as we live alongside this virulent virus.

Every blessing as we continue to journey together,

Bishop Denis



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