

First reading

A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord

Response: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading:

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

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his

Today's Mass Readings

wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



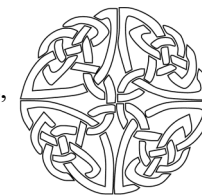
Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

22nd August 2021

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection

For our Gospel today we hear the conclusion of the "Bread of Life discourse" in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed in our liturgy over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that he is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have eternal life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been teaching these things, John's Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus' words. In today's Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer references them, or the Jews. Instead John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus' own disciples.



Today's Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus' disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus' teaching, these disciples also cannot accept Jesus' words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John's Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus' disciples ceased to follow him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 to only 12 people. And it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns his attention.

Simon Peter's response to Jesus' question as to whether those closest to him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter's confession of faith in the Synoptic Gospels. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about himself: Jesus is the one from God in whom they have found the path to eternal life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgment about who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God's grace invites us to be Jesus' disciples, but each person must respond to the grace of God and confess as his or her own the belief that Jesus is the one from God. This faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to eternal life.



In Memoriam

We pray for: Ross Brendan McDonald, London & Newbridge who was interred in Killeen Graveyard during the past week.

Anniversaries for 21 Aug / 22 Aug

Killeen (9am): Ellen Byrne

Arles (10am): Majella Brophy, Maidenhead, (Months Mind)

Ballylinan (8pm):
(11.30am):

Anniversaries for 28 Aug / 29 Aug

Killeen (9am):

Arles (10am): Tadhg O'Donovan, Aghcross

Maureen & Paddy Mulhall & Jack Pound, Coolanowle
Sadie Conway, Farnans.

Ballylinan (8pm): John & Joanna Doyle

(11.30am): Jaydn Kelly, (2nd Anniversary)
Kevin Hovenden.

Parish Office & Shop

(059) 862 5456

Tuesday & Friday 10am – 1pm

arlesparish@gmail.com

Please contact our Office if you wish to book an anniversary mass, a baptism, or your wedding.



Parish Contact Details

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Parish Office: (059) 862 5456

Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

Weekly Collections

Sunday 15th August

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Arles: | Offertory | €156.38 |
| | Envelope | €221.00 |
| Ballylinan: | Offertory | €218.72 |
| | Envelope | €195.00 |
| Killeen: | Offertory | €158.46 |
| | Envelope | €77.00 |

A sincere word of thanks to all those who contribute to the upkeep of our parish.

Like every indoor space, facemasks are required to be worn for all our religious ceremonies in our three churches.

Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.



Safeguarding

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

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149



☺ *Irony: The opposite of wrinkly.*

If you get locked out, talk to the lock calmly. Communication is the key! ☺

Feast Days During the Week

Tuesday 24th August: St. Bartholomew



Friday 27th August: St. Monica



Saturday 28th August: St. Augustine



Some wisdom from St. Augustine:

Miracles are not contrary to nature, but only contrary to what we know about nature.

Patience is the companion of wisdom.

Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering.

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.



SEASON OF CREATION

INVITATION TO SIGN

GLOBAL CATHOLIC PETITION

As one way of marking the Season of Creation 2021, the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development is asking Catholics across the world to sign the 'Healthy Planet Healthy People' petition.

This petition comes ahead of the UN conferences taking place this autumn on biodiversity and on climate change. Parishes are asked to let people know about this simple, practical action they can take – the petition can be signed at www.thecatholicpetition.org

This link also provides resources to help promote the petition.

Sacramental Update



Dates for the celebration of First Holy Communion or Confirmation are as yet not finalised for this year. It is looking like the end of September or early October at the very earliest.

The bishop is awaiting an update from Nephth - in the interim he has asked us not to proceed with any ceremonies.

We will communicate dates and times through our newsletter and parish website as soon as we get the all clear.

