



TODAY'S MASS READINGS

First reading

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, ‘Amen! Amen!’; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.’ For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to Corinthians.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now

you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

23rd January 2022

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lord’s Message of Hope for His People

If you ever wondered whether the stories of the bible can speak with relevance to our modern world, then it’s interesting to ponder the context for today’s gospel reading.

In the story we find Jesus in the synagogue reading a piece of scripture which spoke of: freeing people from burdens in life; giving people hope; enabling them to see a new direction; showing them that God loves them and is with them.

St. Luke tells this story to a people who lived in a time when Roman rule was the order of the day. One could say that a foreign entity influenced the local economy. The victorious Roman army made slaves of many of the young people in Israel. It also imposed heavy taxes upon all the population, young and old alike.

So, when Jesus spoke of “the poor”, most people could put themselves into that category. When Jesus spoke of “freeing prisoners”, he was reaching out to those who were imprisoned by the burden of heavy financial debt.

What Jesus was saying to those people was that he would not let them be crushed by their worries or fears. He was there to give them hope and a new vision.

In the modern Ireland of today, the similarities are very obvious. There are many who could relate to the imposition of high taxes. There

are many who are imprisoned by steep mortgages and financial concerns. Many young people have had opportunities to really blossom taken from them through unemployment.

In the synagogue that day, I’m sure there were people who were sceptical that Jesus could do anything to help. There were also those who placed their trust in him and opened their hearts to his message of hope.

Dear Lord, in our moments of need, help us to turn to you with our problems and worries. Enable us to draw strength from you so that we can cope with the challenges of life. Help us remember that there is nothing impossible to God. Amen.



In Memoriam

Anniversaries for 23 Jan 2022

Killeen (9am): Jimmy Moran, Ballinagar

Arles (10am):

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Billy Coogan (Months Mind)
(11.30am): Tony, Cissie & Sr. Nora Kaye.

Anniversaries for 30 Jan 2022

Killeen (9am):

Arles (10am):

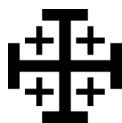
Ballylinan (7.30pm):
(11.30am):

St Abban's NS, Killeen

The Admissions Notice for St Abban's NS, Killeen for school year 2022 has been published on the school website (killeenns.net) and that we will be accepting applications from the 1st February.



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



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Parish Contact Details

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Parish Website: arlesparish.ie



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Safeguarding

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

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149

Arles National School



Arles N.S. will be accepting applications for admission from Thursday 13th January to Thursday 3rd February 2022 inclusive. Please see our website for our Admission Policy, Annual Admission Notice and Application Form. Should you wish a to have a hardcopy please send an email to principal@arlesnationalschool.ie or by writing to the school – Arles N.S., Ballickmoyler, Co. Laois R93HY62

School Retreats available at Knock Shrine



We are delighted to announce that the Youth Ministry at Knock Shrine will resume school retreats throughout 2022. School retreats are available to both primary and secondary schools and offer students a meaningful, spiritually uplifting day to reflect within themselves and experience quality time with their fellow students. Retreat programmes are flexible and can be tailored to suit your group's needs or time limitations.

If you would like to plan a school retreat, please get in touch with a member of our Youth Ministry team:

T: (094) 93 75321

E: youthministry@knockshrine.ie or find out more at www.knockshrine.ie/news

Vocations



Could He be calling you to serve Him as a priest?

Contact Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill

vocations@kandle.ie,
www.kandlepriest.com

Ballylinan N.S. Admissions 2022/23

Please note that applications for the 2022/23 school year will be open from Thursday, 13th January to Friday, 4th February 2022.

Further information on how to apply will be issued closer to the time. If you are aware of anyone who may wish to enrol a child for next year, please let them know these dates.



Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 2022

7 Night Pilgrimage Package

14 - 21 September

Cost: €775 early Booking Discount of €50 before 31st Jan 2022



Flight: Shannon to Mostar

Spiritual Director Fr. Sean Hyland cc

Contact: Michael Nerney 086 8157305

Tour operators Marian Pilgrimages

ACI Zoom Meeting - Synodality, the Parish and Climate Change

As the global climate crisis deepens, so does the crisis of the Irish Catholic church – intensified unexpectedly by a viral pandemic. Faced also with understanding and implementing synodality - a new relationship centred on communion, co-responsibility and mission – Irish parish clergy and lay people are challenged by the understandable indifference of younger generations, who are often more alive to the global climate issue.

Could a parish focus on the climate issue now also help solve the Synodality conundrum in Ireland - to convince younger generations, and clergy, that faith and climate justice need one another?

Convinced that parishes can play a key role in meeting Ireland's carbon reduction targets in the 21st century – and that climate concern needs to be a vital focus of the Irish church – Fr Sean McDonagh will Zoom on this theme on January 27th, 2022, at 8.00 p.m.

Click the link below to join the discussion on Jan 27th at 8.00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83007717613?pwd=U3JZMnBXdnNhTXVldEoybXFjMWUxUT09.Meeing+ID:+830+0771+7613. Passcode: 298337>