

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Second reading

A reading from the second letter of St. Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the

TODAY’S MASS READINGS

sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

The Two Parts of Advent:

Part 1: up until December 16

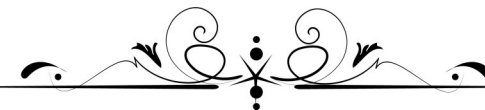
While most liturgical seasons have the gospel as their main focus, during the first weeks of Advent, the Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. With the eyes of faith, these foretell the coming of the Messiah. Rather than a continuous gospel narrative familiar to us

for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a wide variety of gospel readings that support the first reading of the day. After almost two weeks of Isaiah readings, we hear the foretelling of a Messiah from other prophets from the Hebrew scriptures - in Sirach, Numbers, Zephaniah and returning to Isaiah. With each passing week, the prophets speak more clearly of the coming of a Saviour. So, in reading the first reading, for the first part of Advent, we listen to the anticipation, expectation, hope and promise. In listening to the second reading, we listen for the fulfilment or connection with the gospel.



Part 2: December 17 - 24

In these last eight days before Christmas, the relationship between the readings changes. Now the gospel brings us to our celebration of Christmas. The gospels are taken from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. Each of these days, the first reading is taken from the Hebrew scriptures, and chosen to match the gospel. In many cases we can imagine Matthew or Luke having the first reading open on their desks while they wrote the gospel. So, we can read the gospel first and then read the first reading. The sense of anticipation and fulfilment builds as we read the story of the preparation for Jesus' first coming into this world for us.



Religious Services to attend

Morning Mass (Arles): 10am Tuesday - Friday

Recitation of the Rosary (Arles): 9.30am Tuesday - Friday

Confession: After 10am Arles Mass (First Friday)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday 11am - 1pm (Killeen) & Friday 7.30pm - 8.30pm (Ballylinan)

In Memoriam

We pray for: Bridie Moran, Ballinagar who died during this past week.

Anniversaries for 10 December '23

Killeen (9am): Mary Behan (Months Mind)

Emmet O'Brien, Liverpool (Months Mind)

Arles (10am): Betty Byrne, Ballickmoyler (1st Anniversary)

Sean Kenna

Patrick & Mariah Kealy

James & Anna Kealy, Ashfield

Anita Brennan, Arles

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Phyllis Flynn

John & Niall McDonald

(11.30am):

Anniversaries for 17 December '23

Killeen (9am): Breda Bridget Whelan, Hollymount (1st Anniversary)

Mick & Rita Farrell

Liam Byrne, Killabban & his daughter, Pauline O'Shea

Arles (10am): Cathy & Michael Nash & their daughter Kate, Farnans

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Margaret, Patrick, Brendan & Walter Freeman, Borris

(11.30am): Ellen Cooney (1st Anniversary)

Patrick Julian (1st Anniversary)

Weekly Collections

Sunday 3rd December

Arles: Offertory €161.45

Envelope €254.00

Ballylinan: Offertory €319.34

Envelope €174.00

Killeen: Offertory €157.05

Envelope €137.00

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



Youth 2000 Ireland

Annual Christmas retreat in Dominican College, Newbridge, Co Kildare on the 8th -10th of December for ages 16-35. Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks & Workshops, Fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses. Find out more and register now on www.youth2000.ie



Carol Service

Arles NS are holding a Carol Service in Arles parish church at 1pm on Wednesday 13th Dec.

All are welcome.



Christmas Mass Bouquets

available in the Parish Office



Book Launch

You are warmly invited to the launch of 'Through the Lens of Learning': A Pictorial History of Catholic Secondary Education in Athy, Co. Kildare 1855-2023 in Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy, Co. Kildare on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7.30pm.

The book contains over 180 pages of photos from the archives of Scoil Eoin, Scoil Mhuire and Ardscoil na Tríonóide, as well as contributions from past pupils from every decade since the 1950s.

Books can be purchased on the night. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go towards local charities.

Confessions for Christmas 2023



Rite 3 of the Church's Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered to all those who attend Masses next weekend (the Third Sunday of Advent).

As part of our Sunday mass we will have a brief reflection upon our lives and a general absolution for all those in attendance.

Veritas Encourages Shopping for Meaningful Gifts this Christmas

At Veritas you will find devotional books or beautifully illustrated children's books that will entertain but also fill our hearts, nativity sets, Advent candles, memorial gifts, thoughtful cards, beautiful Christmas decorations, and much more.

Visit Veritas stores in Dublin Abbey Street, Blanchardstown, Tallaght, Cork, Limerick, Letterkenny, Derry, and Newry—or shop online at www.veritas.ie

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Ballylinan Church next Weekend



9th & 10th December

Please give generously.

Killeen Altar Society

The Altar Society are holding their annual Christmas flower collection on Sunday 10th Dec. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.



Christmas Carol Service

Friday 22nd December St.

Abban's Church,

Killeen at 7.30pm



All are welcome to gather in praise

Carlow Union of Parishes Advent Talks 2023

Taking place in St Mary's, Haymarket, Carlow on the following dates:

Thursday 14th Dec.: Mary Amond O'Brien
Carlow Community Choir

Sunday 17th Dec.: Bernard Lynch,
LGBTQ+ Advocate



Christmas Whist Drive

In Arles Hall Thursday 14th Dec. 8.30pm

Prizes: Top Score €70

Many other prizes &

Bumper Raffle on the Night



Parish Contact Details

Fr. Padraig Shelley PP (059) 914 7637

Parish Office: (059) 862 5456

✉ arlesparish@gmail.com

Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

