

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: My soul rejoices in my God.

Second reading

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

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

17th December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Reflection

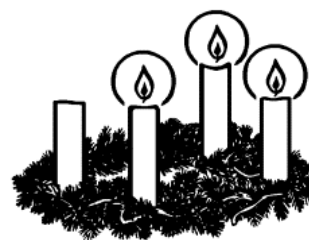
Take time for friendship, for love, for care, for those activities that grow our friendship and love with the people who mean a lot.

Take time these days for the poor, for ensuring that someone's Christmas will be better because of your generosity.

Then the songs will be full and the gifts will be a reminder of love, and Santa, the friend of children, will be like the Christ-child.

Then love for God and others will come to birth at Christmas.

Donal Neary SJ



Loving God,

On this Advent day we turn to you in prayer.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, we ask your blessing on each of us.

Open our hearts to the good news that you bring to us and help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of joy.



May your joy fill our heart, our mind and our home.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come. Lord Jesus.

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."

~ Mother Teresa ~

Love: A Fruit Always in Season



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: JJ McCarthy, Rahin who died during this past week.

Anniversaries for 17 December '23

Killeen (9am): Breada 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)

Anniversaries for 24 December '23

Killeen (9am): Edward, Elizabeth & John Kelly, Tierernane

Arles (10am):

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Billy Coogan (2nd Anniversary)

(11.30am):



Weekly Collections

Sunday 10th December

Arles:	Offertory	€245.33
	Envelope	€227.00
Ballylinan:	Offertory	€267.97
	Envelope	€251.50
Killeen:	Offertory	€222.67
	Envelope	€151.50

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

Killeen NS are holding a Carol Service in Killeen Church at 11.30m on Thursday 21st Dec.

All are welcome.



Christmas Mass Bouquets

available in the Parish Office



Christmas Carol Service

Friday 22nd December St. Abban's Church,

Killeen at 7.30pm



All are welcome to gather in praise

Christmas Station Collection

The Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses over Christmas. Please use the envelope in your box of weekly envelopes.

Thank you for your kindness and support

Safeguarding

DLP: Kathleen Sherry, mobile number 085-8021633 and email: dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149

Confessions for Christmas 2023



Rite 3 of the Church's Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered to all those who attend Masses this 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



Christmas Mass Programme 2023

Christmas Eve

(Sunday 24th December)

9am Killeen

10am Arles

11.30am Ballylinan



Ballylinan 7pm
(Children's Mass)

Arles 9pm

Christmas Day

(25th December)

Killeen - 9am

Arles - 10am

Ballylinan - 11.30am



No Morning Mass in Arles Tues-Fri

Graiguecullen Bingo on Tuesday 19th Dec.

St. Fiaccs Hall at 8.30pm.

Over €8000 in prizemoney to be won in time for Christmas! Jackpot on 43 numbers €1090

Double number €460 Lotto €3250

FREE PINK SHEET with every book (2 free with double book). Chocolates left & right of the winner. Great prizes, bring a friend.

Bingo will resume 2nd January 2024.



Parish Contact Details

Fr. Pdraig Shelley PP (059) 914 7637

Parish Office: (059) 862 5456

✉ arlesparish@gmail.com

Parish Website: arlesparish.ie