

First reading

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Second reading

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

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength

TODAY'S MASS READINGS

to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

24th December 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

Reflection

It's almost Christmas eve. Are you tired? It's been a long journey to the Bethlehem barn.

Are you ready for Christmas? Gifts wrapped, tree decorated, crib in place, food bought. But are you ready? Are you filled with wonder at this God of ours who loves us, forgives us, who wants us, who gives His very own Son to be our Saviour? Are you ready to sing Alleluia with the heavenly choir?



Take a moment—take a moment to savour and welcome what all the preparations have been for: God is with us.



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.

Help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of love. You showed us the greatness of your love in Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Come. Lord Jesus.



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

Anniversaries for 24 December '23

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

Arles (10am):

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

(11.30am):

Anniversaries for 31 December '23

Killeen (9am): Tom & Peggy Fitzpatrick, Hollymount

Arles (10am): John McDonald (1st Anniversary)

Michael & Sheila McDonald, Ashfield

Thomas & Christopher Bolton, The Strand, Ballickmoyler.

Paul Day

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Eoin Julian (8th Anniversary)

Joe Kelly, The Pike, & deceased family members.

Tony, Cissie & Sr. Nora Kaye

(11.30am):

Safeguarding

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

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149

Weekly Collections

Sunday 17th December

Arles:	Offertory	€158.01
	Envelope	€281.00
Ballylinan:	Offertory	€468.33
	Envelope	€219.00
Killeen:	Offertory	€257.29
	Envelope	€188.00

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

Pioneer Association 125th Anniversary

Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27 December and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10am (Irish time) around the world via www.pioneerassociation.org



Parish Office & Shop

The Parish Office will reopen at 10am on Tuesday 9th January.

Thanks to you all for using the Office and Shop over the past year.

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

Brigid 1500

On Thursday 1st February, 2024, churches across Kildare and beyond will come together to participate in a special ecumenical service at 11.00am in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare entitled, 'Celebrating St Brigid. Brigid 1500: A Service of Thanksgiving' dedicated to commemorating the Feast Day of St Brigid and the 1500th anniversary of her death. The co-leaders of this thanksgiving service are the Most Rev Denis Nulty, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and the Most Rev Patricia Storey, Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare. The Reverend Canon Dr. Alison Joyce, Rector of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street in the heart of London, will deliver the sermon.



At the end of the service, a Pause for Peace will be observed in the cathedral at 12 noon. Aligning with a broader initiative whereby the people of Kildare are extending a global invitation, urging individuals worldwide to pause for a minute's silence at midday (local time) on St Brigid's Day, the 1st of February 2024. Livestreaming of the service will also be available worldwide.

Christmas Mass Programme 2023



Christmas Eve

Ballylinan 7pm

Arles 9pm



Christmas Day

(25th December)

Killeen - 9am

Arles - 10am

Ballylinan - 11.30am



*No 10am Morning Mass in Arles this coming week
Tues-Fri*



Ballylinan Community Council are extremely grateful to Margaret Brennan for the proceeds of her recent variety concert with various local musicians giving their time free. A total of €480 was raised. This will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the hall.

We also take this opportunity to wish all our parish community and hall users a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Looking forward to seeing you use the Hall in 2024.



Fr. Pdraig Shelley PP (059) 914 7637

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Parish Contact Details