



TODAY'S MASS READINGS

First reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second reading

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

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has

forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

31st December 2023

The Holy Family

How the Holy Family prayed:

A Reflection by Pope Benedict XVI

"I would like to invite you to reflect on the place of prayer in the life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The home of Nazareth, in fact, is a school of prayer where we learn to listen, to ponder and to penetrate the profound meaning of the manifestation of the Son of God, drawing our example from Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Pope Paul VI during his visit to Nazareth said "we come to understand the need for a spiritual discipline, if we wish to follow the teaching of the Gospel and become disciples of Christ." And he added: "First, it teaches us silence. Oh! That there would be reborn in us the esteem for silence, that wonderful and indispensable atmosphere of the spirit: while we are deafened by so many noises, sounds and clamorous voices in the frantic and tumultuous times of modern life. Oh! Silence of Nazareth, teach us to be resolute in good thoughts, intent upon the interior life, ready to listen well to the secret inspirations of God and the exhorta-

tions of the true masters."

We can glean several insights on the Holy Family's prayer and relationship with God from the Gospel accounts of Jesus' childhood. We may begin with the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. St. Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph, "when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, brought the child up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"(2:22). Like every observant Jewish family, Jesus' parents go up to the temple to consecrate the firstborn son to God and to offer sacrifice. Moved by fidelity to the law's prescriptions, they set off from Bethlehem and go up to Jerusalem with Jesus, who is now forty days old. Instead of a one-year-old lamb, they present the offering of simple families; that is two young pigeons. The Holy Family's pilgrimage is one of faith, of the offering of gifts, a symbol of prayer, and of encounter with the Lord, whom Mary and Joseph already see in their son 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 31 December '23

Killeen (9am): Tom & Peggy Fitzpatrick, Hollymount
Mary-Kate Byrne

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):

Anniversaries for 7 January '24

Killeen (9am): Bridie Moran (Months Mind)
John Jack McDonald (1st Anniversary)
Susan O'Neill

Kathleen Connolly (nee Thornton) (7th anniversary)

Arles (10am): Lily Lawlor & her parents Bill & Ann Doran

Michael & Vera O'Shea

Jim Scully

William Fitzpatrick (3rd Anniversary)

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Barbara Lammon

Paddy McEvoy, Rahin

Thomas Walsh, Carlow Rd

(11.30am):



Feast of Mary Mother of God January 1st

This oldest feast of Mary, comes on the 8th day of the Octave of Christmas, the World Day of Peace and at the start of a new year. It is a powerful reminder to us of the presence of Mary in the life of the Church and in our lives. Mary is our mother, too, and we can turn to her in every moment of need, knowing that she will intercede with God for us. Take time today to pause and think of what Mary means to you personally and to pray a Hail Mary.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Mary, Helper of all in need, pray for us.



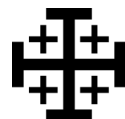
Parish Office & Shop

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

Safeguarding

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

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149



Fr. Padraig Shelley PP (059) 914 7637

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Parish Contact Details

Parish Office: (059) 862 5456

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New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

- Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

Christmas Station Collection

Thank you for your kindness
and support



Feast of the Holy Family



A Prayer for the Family

God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray. (pause)

Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday 6th January

Mass times:

Ballylinan 7.30pm (Friday)

Killeen 9am & Arles 10am (Saturday)

