



TODAY'S MASS READINGS

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St. John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist 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.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT



ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

7th January 2024

The Baptism of the Lord



Baptism of the Lord

The baptism of Jesus immerses him in the life of the people. He joined the queue of people for John's baptism, wanting to share the joys and sorrows of his people. In the depths of the water he entered into the depths of his own humanity and the depths of his people.

Fully part of us

We could say that Jesus has entered into that part of all of us which laughs and sings, dances and cries, feels for the sick and the suffering, desires the best for self and others; nothing human is foreign to him as he was baptised into the life of his people and the God of his ancestors.

At our baptism he enters fully into our lives. At the time when we are most vulnerable, the church and our family celebrate the love of God for us, and that God will call us into his service. At baptism we are twice anointed – once with the protection of God, and then anointed for service. The words spoken to Jesus are spoken for all of us – you are my son, my daughter, the beloved – my favour rests on you.

Men and Women for others

Baptism in the Jordan gave Jesus the start and strength for his service of God's people. Our baptism gives a grace and help we can call on any time to give our lives as best we can in God's service in the service of others. We are called to be men and women for others, as Jesus was a man of love for all whom he met.

Lord teach me to be generous, to give and not to count the cost, for fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to seek reward, save only that of knowing that I do your holy will (Prayer of St Ignatius Loyola). Donal Neary SJ



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 7 January '24

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

Anniversaries for 14 January '24

Killeen (9am): Kathleen Dunne & deceased members of the Dunne family, Killabban.

Arles (10am): Grace Boran (Months Mind)
Edward Doogue (19th anniversary)

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Eamon Behan

(11.30am):

Two Lives of Saint Brigid by Philip Freeman

St. Brigid is the earliest and best-known of the female saints of Ireland. In the generation after St. Patrick, she established a monastery for men and women at Kildare which became one of the most powerful and influential centres of the Church in early Ireland.

The stories of Brigid's life and deeds survive in several early sources, but the most important are two Latin lives written a century or more after her death. The first was composed by a churchman named Cogitosus and tells of her many miracles of healing and helping the poor. The second source, known as the Vita Prima, continues the tradition with more tales of marvellous deeds and journeys throughout the island. Both Latin sources are a treasure house of information not just about the legends of Brigid but also daily life, the role of women, and the spread of Christianity in Ireland.

This book for the first time presents together an English translation of both the Life of Brigid by Cogitosus and the Vita Prima, along with the Latin text of both carefully edited from the best medieval manuscripts. Also included are an introduction, notes, and commentary to help general readers, students, and scholars in reading these fascinating stories of St. Brigid.

The book is available on <https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2024/two-lives-of-saint-brigid/>



Welcoming the Relic of St Brigid



As we prepare to celebrate the life of St Brigid on February 1st and on this, the 1500th anniversary of her death, the Brigidine Sisters from their convent in Tullow are very generously loaning their relic of St Brigid to Kildare Parish for the year.

The relic will be housed in a specially designed shrine in St Brigid's Church, Kildare. The shrine will be unveiled and Mass will be celebrated in honour of St Brigid and the generosity of the Brigidine Sisters on Sunday 28th January at 11am. This is seen very much as a home-coming for St Brigid and all are most welcome to attend.

New Year Resolution – Act Now!

Introductory Course on Philosophy & Meditation



A 10-week course, focusing on how to live our lives more truly and happily will commence in The Rathaskar Room, McAuley Place, Naas, at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th January 2024.

Full details of the Course and Registration via the website, www.practicalphilosophy.ie or phone 01 660 3788 or email info@practicalphilosophy.ie

Only €10 for Term! No previous knowledge of the subject is necessary and all are welcome.



Community Employment Scheme

Vacancies

Applications

on jobsireland.ie and enquiries to CE Supervisor 087 2232515.



Ballylinan Village CES 2311317 – immediate start.

St. Joseph's Cemetery, Ballyadams CES2315966 – immediate start.

The Swan Community Hall & Village CES2311320 – immediate start.

Ballylinan Church & Hall CES2315963 – from 22nd January

Ballylinan Playground & Village CES2311318 – from 29th January

Killeen Hall & Playground CES2311319 – from 29th January

M. Nerney Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 2024

Direct flights to Mostar - Medjugorje

Dublin to Medjugorje in Half the Time

12th - 19th June 2024 €765

Price increases to €815 after 2nd Feb 2024

Spiritual Director: Fr. Sean Hyland C.C.

Contact: Michael Nerney 086 815 7305



When I was young, I admired clever people.
Now that I am old, I admire kind people.
~Abraham Heschel~

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