

First reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel



The Lord says this: 'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high

mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The Word of the Lord

Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

Second Reading:

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord.

TODAY'S MASS READINGS

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT



ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

16th June 2024

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection

How fascinating and appealing and puzzling is the mystery of the farmer in our gospel story today. Farming today is a science – carefully chosen seeds planted in organized, calculated rows and cared for intensely so that they produce high yields. In our country we even go so far as to scientifically develop the perfect seed and fertilize and water it in perfectly measured ratios. Our intellect and discoveries have created the highest-producing fields in the world!

But wait – this story seems to turn that model on its head. Mark's gospel presents a farmer who doesn't even know how the seeds grow. Far from planting in evenly-spaced rows, he simply "scatters" the seeds across the land. But somehow, mysteriously, the full grains come and the farmer can harvest.

On both a personal level and a societal level, it is sometimes tempting to think of building God's kingdom as a formula. If I complete x task, and do x thing, the result will be the kingdom. If I can control all the details just right, I'll get the right outcome. But what we find here is that the kingdom of God isn't like that. The kingdom of God doesn't depend on me figuring out just the right formula to find inner peace or to solve world hunger. It depends on one thing: love. God, the planter, has already scattered the seeds of love all over our world and inside of me, all I have to do is let it grow, and the fruits will baffle us all. Obviously, my intellect and abilities are gifts to help me share that love. But when I start thinking that it depends on me, and I act out of my own desires and my own interests, that seed is choked.

If I strive to unite my actions to the will and love of God, all I have to do is trust that the fruits will come, and they will. And as the second half of the Gospel reveals, even the smallest act of love can produce the largest, fullest tree where all the birds can find shade.



Emily Ruskamp

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 16 June '24

Killeen (9am): Sean Connolly (Months Mind)
Eddie & Billy Baldwin
Mary Coll & Sheila Breheny

Arles (10am):

Ballylinan (8pm):

(11.30am): Martin Kinsella

Anniversaries for 23 June '24

Killeen (9am): Johnny Byrne, Ballyfoyle

Arles (10am):

Ballylinan (8pm):

(11.30am):

Dates for your Diary

Graveyard/Cemetery Masses

Killabban - Friday 21st June at 7.30pm

Arles - Friday 5th July at 7.30pm

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

Weekly Collections

Sunday 9th June

Arles: Offertory €107.57

Envelope €270.00

Ballylinan: Offertory €138.19

Envelope €81.00

Killeen: Offertory €152.91

Envelope €172.00

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

Vocations



“My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.” We were created with a thirst for God. Could He be calling you to quench it by living in Him as a priest?

Contact Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill

vocations@kandle.ie, www.kandlepriest.com

Ruach Ministry Portlaoise

3-Day Residential Retreats 2024

Faith formation based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and Inner Healing Adoration, led by Fr. Prince Clarence S.J. Venue: De La Salle Retreat Centre, Castletown, Co Laois.

Dates: 23rd-25th July, 30th July – 1st August, 6th – 8th August.

Cost: €195.00 per person, per retreat.
Contact: Margaret 087 2312066/ Oonagh 086 1736181.

Email: ruachministry5@gmail.com

Safeguarding

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

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149



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Please join our growing faith family! Please feel free to contact, Eamonn Hennessy on 085- 8174799 & email info@radiomaria.ie

‘Day for Life’

A dedicated day celebrating the beauty and dignity of all human life

Day for Life Sunday is celebrated annually with a special message by the Catholic Church across Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It is a day specifically dedicated to raising awareness and reflecting on the deep value and meaning of human life at every stage, and in every condition.

On Sunday 16 June, the Church will mark Day for Life 2024 with a message on the theme: The Lord is my shepherd - Compassion and Hope at the End of Life.

This year’s message reminds us that Jesus did not send the sick away, rather He showed that life always has dignity and that there is no such a thing as a useless life. Catholics are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide. In this way, we are encouraged to support people with the companionship of a listening ear, appropriate treatment, and the best of care, so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love.

This message also includes a brief human-interest story about a young man named Matt, and the experience of a priest who ministered to Matt and his loved ones in his final months and days. This grace-filled time proved to be a period of intense compassion and profound dignity, as well as faith enriching experience of love and generosity for all concerned.

The Day for Life message is available on <https://councilforlife.ie/day-for-life-2024/>

To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them.

~ St. Thomas Aquinas ~



Rally For Life 2024

Ireland’s largest annual pro-life march takes place Saturday, 6th July 2024 at 1.30pm, Parnell Square, Dublin. Contact (01) 8730465 to book a seat on a rally bus from your area.

See www.rallyforlife.net and www.thelifeinstitute.net/rally2024 for more information.



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