

## First reading

A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

*The Word of the Lord*

**Response:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Second Reading:

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

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his

## Today's Mass Readings

wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*



# CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

25th August 2024

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Reflection

For our Gospel today we hear the conclusion of the "Bread of Life discourse" in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed in our liturgy over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that he is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have eternal life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been teaching these things, John's Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus' words. In today's Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer references them, or the Jews. Instead John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus' own disciples.



Today's Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus' disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus' teaching, these disciples also cannot accept Jesus' words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John's Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus' disciples ceased to follow him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 to only 12 people. And it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns his attention.

Simon Peter's response to Jesus' question as to whether those closest to him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter's confession of faith in the Synoptic Gospels. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about himself: Jesus is the one from God in whom they have found the path to eternal life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgment about who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God's grace invites us to be Jesus' disciples, but each person must respond to the grace of God and confess as his or her own the belief that Jesus is the one from God. This faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to eternal life.



## 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 25 August '24

**Killeen (9am):** Margaret & Maurice Enright

Ellen Byrne, Ballyfoyle

**Arles (10am):** Tadhg O'Donovan

**Ballylinan (8pm):** Eileen Kaye

**(11.30am):**

### Anniversaries for 01 September '24

**Killeen (9am):**

**Arles (10am):** Patrick & Maureen Mulhall & Jack Pound, also Catherine Walsh formerly of Coolanowle who died during the year.

Elsie O'Reilly (2nd Anniversary)

**Ballylinan (8pm):** Judy & Michael Shortall

**(11.30am):** John & Johanna Doyle

John Joe & Angela Brennan & deceased members of the Brennan & Whelan families.

Jaydn Kelly, Ballylinan (5th Anniversary)

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord**

### Arles N.S.



Arles N.S. reopens on Thursday 29th August at 9.30am. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, and a special welcome to the new Junior Infants starting.

### Spioraid Naomh Praying Community

*Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat*



St. Peters and Paul's Parish Church  
Portlaoise

Saturday 31st. August  
2024 [ 10.00 am to 1.30 pm ]

Holy Mass at 10am - Confessions available

Retreat continues in Old Sacristy behind Alter from 10.45 am to 1.30 pm

(Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry)

Contact: Michael Nerney 086 8157305 Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P

[www.spioraidnaoimh.com](http://www.spioraidnaoimh.com)

*All Welcome*

### Weekly Collections

#### Sunday 18th August

Arles:	Offertory	€134.93
	Envelope	€245.20
Ballylinan:	Offertory	€252.96
	Envelope	€349.00
Killeen:	Offertory	€126.18
	Envelope	€172.80

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

### Catholic Marriage Encounter



Catholic Marriage Encounter in Ireland

is a Weekend experience is for married couples who want something more in their marriage - more fun, spontaneity, excitement, communication, understanding, romance, intimacy, passion, joy.

Our next Marriage Enrichment Weekend is Friday 8 - 10 November 2024

Venue: Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co. Kildare

Online booking only  
[www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie)

### Safeguarding

DLP: Kathleen Sherry, mobile number 085-8021633 and email: [dlp@kandle.ie](mailto:dlp@kandle.ie)

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149

### Harvesting Gratitude



Dominican Retreat  
13th -15th September  
2024

This weekend retreat offers us the invitation to pause, ponder, acknowledge and celebrate with gratitude the many blessings in our lives.

Cost: €280.00 Residential, €180.00 Non-Residential. For bookings please contact the Dominican Retreat Centre Tallaght, call: 01 4048189 or

email: [dominicanretreat@gmail.com](mailto:dominicanretreat@gmail.com)

### Indoor Mat Bowling

opening in Killeen Hall, after break, on Tuesday September 3rd and every Tuesday following at 7.30pm.

*All very welcome to an enjoyable evening. Curious? Come and find out!!*



### Bus to Knock

from Stradbally on Sept 8th Our Blessed Lady's Birthday.

For further bus details please contact 0857482558.



### Jubilee Choir



Choir practice will resume on Thursday August 29th at 7.30pm in St. Anne's Church.



All are welcome!!



Thursday 5th September 8pm - 10pm

### Big Mama's Door Band

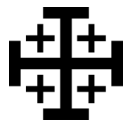
Play The Tower, Carlow.

It's been 15 years since Fiona McElroy (Wolfhill, living in Ballylinan. Yes...Peggy's daughter) and her band played their last incredible gig in Pedigree Corner to a home crowd. The rest of the band are so excited to travel from the UK.

Music starts at 8pm. Tickets on Eventbrite or call 085 1921 682 for more info.



### Parish Contact Details



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