



TODAY'S MASS READINGS

First reading

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, ‘Amen! Amen!’; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.’ For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Second Reading

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

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now

you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

The Gospel of the Lord



CONTACT



ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

26th January 2025

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lord’s Message of Hope for His People

If you ever wondered whether the stories of the bible can speak with relevance to our modern world, then it’s interesting to ponder the context for today’s gospel reading.

In the story we find Jesus in the synagogue reading a piece of scripture which spoke of: freeing people from burdens in life; giving people hope; enabling them to see a new direction; showing them that God loves them and is with them.

St. Luke tells this story to a people who lived in a time when Roman rule was the order of the day. One could say that a foreign entity influenced the local economy. The victorious Roman army made slaves of many of the young people in Israel. It also imposed heavy taxes upon all the population, young and old alike.

So, when Jesus spoke of “the poor”, most people could put themselves into that category. When Jesus spoke of “freeing prisoners”, he was reaching out to those who were imprisoned by the burden of heavy financial debt.

What Jesus was saying to those people was that he would not let them be crushed by their worries or fears. He was there to give them hope and a new vision.

In the modern Ireland of today, the similarities are very obvious. There are many who could relate to the imposition of high taxes.

There are many who are imprisoned by steep mortgages and financial concerns. Many young people have had opportunities to really blossom taken from them through unemployment.

In the synagogue that day, I’m sure there were people who were sceptical that Jesus could do anything to help. There were also those who placed their trust in him and opened their hearts to his message of hope.

Dear Lord, in our moments of need, help us to turn to you with our problems and worries. Enable us to draw strength from you so that we can cope with the challenges of life. Help us remember that there is nothing impossible to God. Amen.



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 26 Jan 2025

Killeen (9am): James Julian, Grange
Anna Evans & Jimmy Moran

Arles (10am): Margaret Fenlon (1st Anniversary)
Michael (Mick) Stynes (1st Anniversary)
Michael & Sheila McDonald, Ashfield

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Michael (Henry) McDonald
(Months Mind)
Tony, Cissie & Sr. Norah Kaye

(11.30am): Rose Brennan Jordan (Birthday Remembrance)

Anniversaries for 2 Feb 2025

Killeen (9am): Mary Lawless

Arles (10am): Paddy Doogue, Maidenhead

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Dick Donohoe & his parents
Denis & Ellen
Margaret & William Bambrick

(11.30am): Mona Morris (1st Anniversary)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

Safeguarding

DLP: Kathleen Sherry, mobile number 085-8021633 and email: dlp@kandle.ie
Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149

Cloak on the Moat : A celebration of St Brigid



Free family event to celebrate St Brigid in south Kildare. This is a celebration of St Brigid through music, song, dance and folklore. Village Voices community choir will be joined on stage with guest artists; Joseph Gorman, Kevin Morrin, Margaret Brennan and Paul Linehan. Local historian Colm Flynn will regale us in folklore, Athy Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann will entertain us and also joining us will be the St Laurence's Set dancers and the Kilmead Irish Figure Dance Class.

This is an outdoor event, so please dress appropriately and bring a chair or blanket for extra comfort.

Date: Bank Holiday Monday 3rd February 2025
Time: 2pm Venue: The Moat of Ardscoil on the R418, near the village of Kilmead. Co. Kildare.

Dana's Cross & Cloak Concert

Abbeyleix Co Laois



Dana's Cross & Cloak Concert in aid of the All-Ireland Sacred Heart Crusade, takes place on Sunday 2nd February 2025 in The Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix, Co Laois R32 VE24 (featuring local artists).

Ticket €25.00 (Book on Eventbrite.ie). For more information, contact Antoinette- 086 0803047.



The Synodal Pathway
of the Catholic Church in Ireland

Synod Update – two strands of current work:

The Final Document of the Universal Synod can be viewed on www.kandle.ie/synod. This document is now part of the ordinary Magisterium (teaching) of the Church and Pope Francis has asked members of the Church across the world to accept and implement its findings. This is now a key task for members of parishes, dioceses and national conferences. The Diocesan Pastoral Council and Council of Priests will study and reflect on this document and they invite parishioners, especially members of parish pastoral councils, to take up and begin to reflect and act upon this document also.

Alongside this important work, the Irish Synodal Pathway continues. The Bishops intend to hold the first in a series of National Assemblies in 2026. They are now asking dioceses to identify priorities for action to be addressed at the first assembly. These priorities for action will be taken from the themes of the Irish Synthesis that was submitted to Rome. These themes have now incorporated the findings of the Universal Synod Final Document. During Lent a series of two hour meetings will take place across the diocese to agree and name the priorities for action. The findings of the meetings will form one K&L submission. A national meeting in October will decide the focus of the first assembly in light of the submissions from all 26 dioceses and other Church bodies on the island of Ireland.



The people of Kildare call on people worldwide to **Pause for Peace** for 1 minute's silence/reflection at 12 noon, local time, on St. Brigid's day, February 1st. By pausing for Peace we send out a message that we actively oppose warfare and the proliferation of arms in our world.



A global Pause for Peace Movement was jointly launched by Kildare Tourism and Solas Bhríde in Kildare in 2023 to mark the new national holiday in honour of St. Brigid who was renowned as a Peacemaker in early Ireland. One of the most popular legends associated with Brigid is that of giving away her father's precious sword to a poor person so that it could be bartered for food to feed his family. It is a rolling pause for peace commencing in New Zealand and moving seamlessly through continents and islands on St. Brigid's Day. Since its inception in 2023, the Pause for Peace is gaining widespread support nationally and internationally. Join us! Answer the call!



Barrowhouse Foroige Club Registration Night

31st January at 8pm in Killeen Hall

For more information, please contact:
aileen.costello@foroige.ie



Whist Drive



In Arles Hall every Thursday Night 8.30pm

All welcome.



Ballylinan Altar Society collection was €453.00. Thanks to all who contributed.



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