



## TODAY'S MASS READINGS

### First reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants.' Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

Response: The Lord is my light and my help.

### Second Reading

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

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The Word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord



# CONTACT

ARLES, BALLYLINAN & KILLEEN NEWSLETTER



Parish Website: arlesparish.ie

16th March 2025

2nd Sunday of Lent

## The Mountain Top

A mountain top experience might be defined as a heightened experience that surprises and that points beyond itself. It is sacramental in nature; a spiritual experience that changes the heart and soul of those who experience it. It is usually deeply challenging and the best mountain top experiences usually lead to a change in behaviour.

One of the most famous mountain top experiences was that of Martin Luther King Jr. We don't know where or when it happened but he spoke about it in this way in 1963, "We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land".

Today's Gospel challenges us to examine our own mountain top experiences. What have they taught us about ourselves? What did they teach us about God? But perhaps the most important question; what did they inspire us to do?

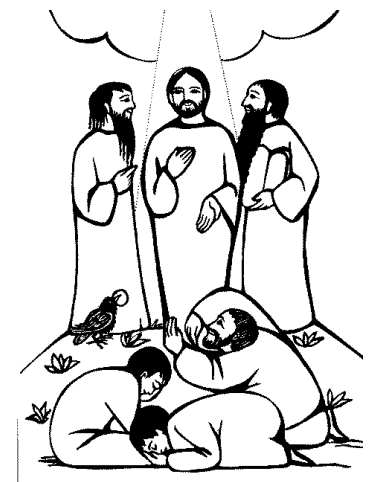
A mountain top experience doesn't continue indefinitely; at some stage, we all have to come down from the mountain and live back in the world; challenging it and changing it as we ourselves have been challenged and changed by love.

Mountain top experiences – any deep encounter with the God of love – challenge us to love others as we have been loved.

Through faith, we can recognize the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love. Pope Benedict shared with us some years ago that "it is faith that enables us to recognize Christ and it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbour along the journey of life." (Porta Fidei, 14)

So through our 'mountain top experiences' this Lent, may we be renewed as people of faith to live lives that seek to bring your love to those most in need.

*Fr. Joe Walsh,*



## 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 March 2025

Killeen (9am): Kathleen & Patrick Walsh

Arles (10am):

Ballylinan (7.30pm):

(11.30am): Norah Byrne

### Anniversaries for St. Patrick's Day 2025

Killeen (9am): Pat Leigh

Arles (10am): Jimmy Myron

(11.30am):

### Anniversaries for 23 March 2025

Killeen (9am): Jackie (John) Behan (1st Anniversary)

Arles (10am): Tony Kennedy

Michael Mooney, Ashfield

Ballylinan (7.30pm): Months Mind for Fr. O'Shea

(11.30am):

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord



### Safeguarding

DLP: Ailish Higgins, mobile number 085-8021633 and email: dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Christine Oglesby (087) 654 6149

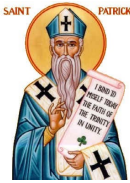


## St. Patrick's Day Mass Times

9am Killeen

10am Arles

11.30am Ballylinan



### Solemn Novena – Monasterevin

Solemn Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help takes place in Saints Peter and Paul Church, Monasterevin over 5 nights, commencing on Monday 31st March to Friday 4th April 2025 at 7.30

p.m. There will be a number of guest speakers over the 5 nights including Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Bishop Paul Dempsey, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin.



### Graiguecullen Monster Bingo



Tues 19th March St. Fiaccs Hall at 8.30pm.

Jackpot on 50 numbers €2130

Double number €740 / Lotto €550

### Evangelium Ireland Conference 2025

Evangelium Ireland invites young Catholics to its annual Apologetics Conference at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, on Saturday, 26 April 2025. The event features talks and workshops on topics such as discipleship in the Gospel of St. John, doctrinal development, and the making of modern culture. Holy Mass will be celebrated. Cost: €45, including lunch, refreshments, and an evening social. For the full programme and registration, visit [www.evangelium.ie](http://www.evangelium.ie) or search 'Evangelium Ireland' on Eventbrite.



### Top Ten Ways to Help Pollinators: Don't mow, let it grow!

Reduce mowing to allow native wildflowers like Dandelions, Clover and Birds-foot Trefoil to naturally return over time. By reducing mowing – even to once a month – you will help them to slowly return, one pocket at a time. Where? Everywhere! Even tiny biodiversity margins are valuable.



[pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/](http://pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/)

East Laois Macra are having a vintage car, truck and tractor run, accompanied by a kids tractor run, on the 23rd March in Pedigree Corner, in conjunction with Embrace Farm. This will be followed by food and live music.



### Carlow Flower Club



Carlow Flower Club are hosting a garden talk by Mary Keenan on "Preparing your Garden now for Summer Colour". Tuesday 25th March at 8.00pm in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel. Mary is the editor of "The Irish Garden Magazine" and the owner of Gash Gardens in Co. Laois. This is sure to be a most informative night for all those who garden.



### Pilgrims of Hope in Lent

Follow and like the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese Facebook and X accounts for daily posts on hope in Lent.

### Barrowside Foroige (Youth Group)

Are you between 1st - 3rd year and looking for a space to be yourself! Meeting 2nd and 4th Friday of each month between 8-9pm in Killeen Hall.

For more information, contact Elaine 0877606687.



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### Brigidine Convents Annual Past Pupils Dinner

Past Pupils of the Brigidine Convents of Abbeyleix, Mountrath, Tullow & Goresbridge are invited to the *Brigidine Convents Annual Past Pupils Dinner* which takes place on Sunday 27th April in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise at 12.45pm. Cost €50 and booking to be made before Thurs 17th April.

Contact Sheila Kinane 087 224 944 or 045 867 124 Email: [sheilakinane@gmail.com](mailto:sheilakinane@gmail.com)