

# THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

R.I.P.

Mass Mon to Friday 10am (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

KILLALLON Sun 10am

CLONMELLON Sun 11.30am Ann- Paddy & Kate Garry & d.f.m. Ann – Josephine Kelly **Family Mass**

Wed – St Frances de Sales Thur – Conversion of St Paul Fri – Ss Timothy & Titus

KILLALLON Sun 10am Ann – Sandra Poynton

CLONMELLON Sun 11.30am Ann-Matthew McCann Ann – Pat, Billy & Michael Fagan

**Adoration** Monday 2.30pm – 8pm. **Baptisms** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month 11.00am

Confirmation Thur March 7<sup>th</sup> First Communion Sunday May

**Baptism Team** – If you would like to be a member of a parish baptism team please give in your name to the Parochial House or to any member of the P.P.A.

**Programme for Parents** of children for Confirmation & First Communion by Zoom beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 8pm – “The Wild Goose” (Old Celtic name for the Holy Spirit) and testimonies from young adults how God has intervened in their lives

**28<sup>th</sup> January 4pm** – The Diocese hosts a celebration of Vespers in the Cathedral for the Religious of the Diocese – It also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ordination of Bishop Michael Smith – Reflection will be delivered by Fr John Harris OP **The Society of St Vincent de Paul** would like to express heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the recent brown envelope collection. May you be richly rewarded for your kind generosity. All donations will be used to assist the local community. If you would like to assist us as an SVP volunteer, please contact one of our members or call the SVP Phone 087-142 - 7520

## The Kingdom of God is near

It is at once striking and quite probably revealing that Mark's version of the gospel story gets off to such a humble, modest start. Matthew has his mysterious star in the east and the Magi who follow it. Luke gives us layer upon layer of drama surrounding the birth and later appearance of Jesus. John brings us to the rim of the galaxies and the beginning of all things with that all-creating Word of God who was with God in the beginning. But not Mark. Mark allows Jesus merely to appear from out of nowhere, emerging humbly from the heat vapors emanating from the desert floor to be baptized by John.

The message we have to proclaim and to embody and to exemplify is the same now as it has always been: the kingdom of God is at hand. Today as much as ever, people need to know that this kingdom is real and available. They need to see the joy and the possibilities of that kingdom in us. Because often people are too easily satisfied just to make do with what is quick and easy and cheap: People settle for sex or drink or the distractions provided by entertainment or new technology. They look to these things to save them, or at least to help them move forward in a grim world. But, as C.S. Lewis once wrote, we are far too easily satisfied. We're like a child who turns down an invitation for a day at the beach and chooses instead to stay sitting in a slum alley making mud pies just because the child really can't imagine how much better a day at the shore can be.

Maybe the kingdom is like that: it's here, it's real, it's right outside your door. The kingdom of God is at hand! Don't be so easily satisfied with the temporary pleasures. A better, exciting, hopeful, joyful kingdom of life is real. The kingdom of God is at hand. We live knowing that this is true! We live to help others believe it, too.

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS TODAY

SUNDAY WITHIN THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
CHRISTIAN UNITY (18TH - 25TH)

Both Jonah and Jesus brought urgent messages of the need for repentance and change in peoples lives. Such change was needed to make them open to the action of God. If there is to be unity among the followers of Christ, we all need to change.

Let us pray to God our loving Father and ask him to bless our brothers and sisters chosen to proclaim His Word. God our Father, you have given our brothers and sisters faith in you and in your loving word. We ask you to help them grow in that faith as they meditate on your word, so that they may worthily proclaim the word to the assembly and by the manner of their lives. Through Christ our Lord.

Come Holy Spirit, guide and enlighten all teachers that they may impart God's wisdom and understanding to our young people. May they help them in their quest for knowledge and in living just and upright lives. Spirit of wisdom and understanding fall afresh on them.

## PRAYER FOR UNITY

God our Father,  
you are the Father of all equally,  
Father of Christians and Jews,  
Father of peoples holding other beliefs.  
Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit who unites  
peoples,  
so that all may forget their differences,  
put aside their prejudices,  
and work together for the good of all.  
Hear the prayer of your Son,  
and make of one mind and one heart,  
all those who believe in him.  
Let them concentrate on what unites them,  
and with love try to resolve what divides them,  
so that once more they may form one family,  
gathered around your table,  
to be fed with the one bread from heaven  
which builds up his Mystical Body here on earth,  
and give the pledge of everlasting glory.  
Unite also more closely the members of your  
Church,  
those who love only change,  
and those who love only traditions,  
so that your people may live in happiness and  
peace.

1. 'The time is fulfilled' – this is a decisive moment in the life of Jesus. His public ministry is about to begin. Recall turning points in your own life when something new happened and with hindsight you can say the time was ripe for it to happen, 'the time was fulfilled'.
2. 'Repent and believe the good news'. Jesus was not preaching a new doctrine, but calling for a change of heart, as a response to the good news of the gospel message. A new way of understanding God leads to a conversion in how we relate to God, a change of heart. A growth in awareness of who we are can lead us to a new level of self-confidence, another change of heart. Can you recall times when 'good news' led you to a change of heart?
3. The Spirit of God who was at work in Jesus calling the disciples continues to work in our day and in our lives. That is why the gospel message is one of GOOD NEWS. When has your understanding of the gospel message led you to a different style of life? Who was the 'Jesus person' through whom the call came to you? To whom have you been a 'Jesus person' in this way?
4. This Sunday is called the SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD' in order to emphasise the role and importance of the word of God in our lives. What has helped you to discover the Scriptures as a source of encouragement, enlightenment, and renewed faith? Is there something extra you could do now to enhance your appreciation and love of the word of God.