

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

R.I.P.

Mass Mon to Friday 10am

KILLALLON Sun 10am Ann – Sandra Poynton

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

Wed – St John Bosco **Thur – St Brigid Patron of Ireland Fri-1st Friday The Presentation of the Lord**

Killallon 7.30pm – Masses for the list of the dead

KILLALLON Sun 10am Ann – Leah Carolan Ann – Paddy Melligan

CLONMELLON Sun 11.30am Ann – Mary & John Keane Ann – Lilah Ryan Mick & Ann Plunkett

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

Confirmation Thur March 7th First Communion Sunday May. **Communion Calls** next week.

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 (changed this week to Tuesday 30th Jan 8pm – “The Wild Goose” (Old Celtic name for the Holy Spirit) and testimonies from young adults how God has intervened in their lives

M.Fund Draw Thur Feb 1st. New boxes of M.Fund envelopes, Candlemas Offering envelope, Trocaire Box (if they are here) Financial Statement will be distributed to your homes in the coming week because it will save our generous volunteers who distribute the offering envelopes for the support of the priests an extra journey which they normally make at the end of February. We wish to thank you for your generous support for the weekly Maintenance Fund and the 6 Offering days for the Priests.

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Teaching with Authority

Someone recently asked me, ‘Why do I care so much about what other people say and think about me?’ I thought about today’s gospel. We’re such funny people. Deep down we long for intimacy and authenticity but the last thing we want is to be found out, to have someone see us for who we truly are and who we are not.

We say the right things, act the right way, dress and behave the right way, even believe the right way, and all the while we are creating ourselves in the image and likeness of the unclean spirit. The irony is that those fronts we put up, those personas, keep us from having the very things we think they will gain us, things like intimacy, love, acceptance, healing, forgiveness, and authenticity. The personas offer no possibility for life to flourish and be abundant. Still, we hold on to those false voices, voices that collectively ask, ‘Have you come to destroy us?’

That is exactly what Jesus has come for. He has come to destroy. He silences our false voices. He casts out all our personas and makes us people with a clean spirit. He stands before us as the mirror image of who we can become. He calls us into our true self, the one made in the image and likeness of God. Today’s gospel is as much about calling forth as it is about casting out. They are two sides of the same coin.

The true voice and the true image are always present. That’s why the man with an unclean spirit can cry out, ‘I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’ He speaks from a deep place of knowing. His recognition of Jesus is at a profound level a recognition of himself and his own holiness. For every voice that denies that and leaves us crying, ‘What have you do to with us?’ Jesus says, ‘Shhh. Be quiet. That’s not who you are. You are mine and I have everything to do with you.’ Listen to that voice and you too will be astounded at what can become of your life.

28th January 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE
FRIDAY THE 2ND



For some people it is a fearful thing to imagine being face to face with God. For those in Christ, however, such fear is overcome because with him the presence of God neither torments nor annihilates but brings human life to perfection.

PRAYER

Let us join the Church around the world to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and other forms of Consecrated life. Let us also take this time to seek the will of God our Father in our own lives as we follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Jesus calls each of us to follow and encourages us not to be afraid. With confidence in God’s grace we seek God’s help.

For our world, may all leaders and organisations work together for greater justice. May these efforts lead to lasting peace.

For those who are called to the Consecrated life, may they be faithful witnesses to God’s love. May others be inspired to live their baptismal commitment by professing the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

For our families and for this Christian community, may we respond to the needs of those close to us. May gratitude and generosity abound.

Loving God, we trust in your love and compassion for your people. Hear our prayers and grace us with your blessings. We seek to do your will through the power of your Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

1. In this first chapter Mark familiarises his readers with the type of things Jesus did to proclaim the kingdom, the Reign of God. Our passage today touches on two of these, the first being that ‘he taught as one having authority’. It makes a difference when you listen to someone who is clearly speaking from experience and personal knowledge. Remember people who impressed you in this way.
2. Jesus’ combined teaching with healing, and he drove the evil spirit out of the man. The power of God that worked this wonder through Jesus is also at work in and through us today. When have you been freed from some bad habit?
3. The evil spirit convulsed the man before it left him. The path to liberation can be a painful struggle. If you have found it so, who was the Jesus person that helped you through the struggle to freedom?
4. It is not only individuals but groups that can be struggling with an evil spirit – jealousy, rivalry, malicious gossiping, abuse of power, etc. Sometimes a Jesus person comes into the group and drives out that evil spirit. Have you experienced this? Perhaps you yourself have been this person on some occasion?