



# ***Bandon Parish Bulletin***

Parish: [www.bandonparish.ie](http://www.bandonparish.ie)

Diocese: [www.corkandross.org](http://www.corkandross.org)

Tel: 023 8841666 - Mobile: 087 647 2406

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 No. 2700

## ***Third Sunday In Ordinary Time***

### **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.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jonah

3:1-5.10

***The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour.***

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps.24:4-9.R.v.4

***R. Lord, make me know your ways.***

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray.  
He guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

## SECOND READING

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

7:29-31

***The world as we know it is passing away.***

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 1:15

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**The kingdom of God is close at hand;**  
**believe the Good News.**  
**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

1:14-20

***Repent, and believe the Good News.***

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

*We welcome all the children of our primary schools,  
who are preparing for Confirmation  
to the Enrolment for Confirmation Mass  
at 6:00pm this Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>.*

**GRAMOPHONE CIRCLE** returns Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January in the Parish Centre at 8pm. All are welcome.

**GAGGIN ICA AFTERNOON TEA DANCE** Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm. Music by C&M Sound. All proceeds to St Michael's Centre, Bandon.

**MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE** 7 nights €650pps. Special price if you book and pay deposit before January 31<sup>st</sup>. From Cork Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Contact Gerard Madden 086 366 6514.

**PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1:30-2:30pm & 7-8pm. [www.presentationprimarybandon.com](http://www.presentationprimarybandon.com) / Tel: 023 88 41809  
Email: [office@presentationprimarybandon.com](mailto:office@presentationprimarybandon.com)

## Two Alpha Training Days - 27<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

The Office for Mission and Ministry are hosting two Alpha training days for those interested in running Alpha in their Parish/Family of Parishes:

1. **Cork City (Blackrock Parish Centre) on Saturday 27 January 2024**
2. **West Cork (Clonakilty Parish Centre) on Saturday 3 February 2024**

Please contact the Office for Mission and Ministry as soon as possible through the Diocesan website: <https://corkandross.org/alpha-training-day>

### Points to Ponder

When we listen to the words of Jesus in the gospels, or at Mass on Sundays, we see how his life was imbued with the Bible which for him was the first (what we call the Old) Testament. He would have heard them prayed at home with Joseph and Mary. He would have heard them read and commented upon also in the local synagogue. How often in his ministry did he use the words of the prophet Isaiah - in the synagogue at Nazareth when he declared fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, or in the ground-breaking Sermon on the Mount, or in his reply to John the Baptist who sent disciples to him asking him if he was the one who was to come or were they to wait for another. As he was dying on the cross the word of Psalm 22 are found on his lips. He often used images from his Bible in his teaching. Isaiah and the psalms provided the inspiration for those words of blessing - the Beatitudes - with which he began his great sermon and which set the tone for the rest of that sermon and indeed his whole ministry.

Jesus' words and deeds transmitted by his disciples became in turn the Sacred Scriptures of Jesus' followers. The gospels and letters were gathered together to form the New Testament. Together the two parts of our Bible form a unity around the figure of Christ. Together they help us to understand the person and the mission of Christ. Together they challenge us to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of Jesus.

Archbishop Dermot Farrell  
'Sunday of the Word of God'  
[www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

### Thought for the day

#### *Catholic Schools Week 2024*

Christian service puts faith into action. In Catholic schools, as we study and look to Jesus Christ as our role model and Teacher, we come to a greater understanding of the depth of Christian service. Jesus served every person regardless of creed, background, faith, social status or age. He put faith into action by showing all those around him how our Heavenly Father is compassionate, courageous and forgiving. Jesus didn't just talk about His faith; He lived it.

We are called by faith to go into the world to share the love of God with all those we meet. Each person, at every age, is called to become Christ for another by serving every person with a humble heart and with a generous spirit.

Alan Hynes  
[catholiceducation.ie](http://catholiceducation.ie)

**PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN WITH YOU FROM THE CHURCH**

Bandon Print & Sign 023 884 4455