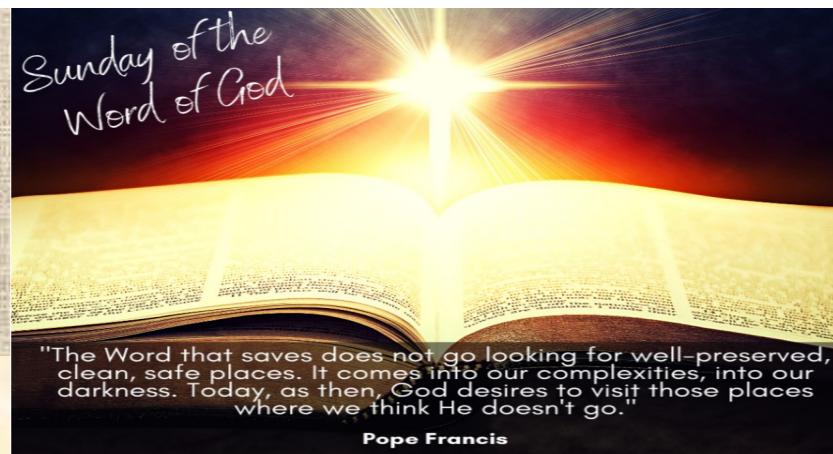


Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow  
with St. David's, Johnstown –  
Sunday 23rd January 2022  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday of the Word of God

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> <i>St Vincent</i> <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<b>22nd January</b>
6.30 p.m.	Brian McKay (Months Mind) James (Jim) Kennedy (1st Anniv) Jim Gilbert Aidan Forde Maise Gleeson Reggie Gleeson May Gleeson
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	<b>23rd January</b>
8.30 a.m. 11.30 a.m.	Maggie Murray Mary Brauders (Months Mind) Michael Keogh
7.00 p.m.	Mary McCarthy
<b>Monday</b> <i>St Francis De Sales</i>	<b>24th January</b>
10.00 a.m.	
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>St Paul</i>	<b>25th January</b>
10.00 a.m.	Francis (Frank) Briody
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>Ss Timothy &amp; Titus</i>	<b>26th January</b>
10.00 a.m.	
<b>Thursday</b> <i>St Angela Merici</i>	<b>27th January</b>
10.00 a.m.	Deceased Members Loughrell Family
<b>Friday</b> <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	<b>28th January</b>
10.00 a.m.	John Hogan (Jnr)



## SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis* Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the Sunday of the Word of God.

This Sunday builds on the texts and prayers of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is conscious that it comes just after the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. While we are not yet united around the table of the Eucharist, we do share on many Sundays of the year the same scriptural readings in our different Christian assemblies. Pope Francis urges us to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to continue our prayer for Christian unity.

This Sunday is a time when the community is called to give greater attention not just to the Word of God. It is also urged to reflect on how we honor that Word in our celebrations, the books that we proclaim the Word from. Is the Gospel book carried in procession? Is it a well-made book that shows forth its life-giving content? Is it honoured with incense, and do we sing during the Gospel procession? Are the readers who proclaim the Word formed in the art of proclamation, and the knowledge of what they are announcing?

Pope Francis suggests in his letter that this Sunday is an ideal time to reflect on these issues. For presiders, it is also a call to reflect once again on their preaching of the Word of God. This Sunday has in the past offered an appropriate opportunity to commission and bless those who serve the community as readers, and initiate new ones to this essential ministry.



"Where to from here?" This question is another way of putting the purpose of our Synodal Pathways: what does God want of his church? How can we be as a community of faith so as to serve the Good News and offer to all the word of life? As we imagine our future together, we stand in need of fresh inspiration and new energy. The regeneration of faith can have no other genesis than God's living word.

On the Sunday of the Word of God, we celebrate the gift of the Scriptures, a gift which goes on giving and can energise us with a new vision. May the words of Jesus be our experience too: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' May the Spirit guide our reading and our listening, our living and our proclamation of the Good News.

Synod Resources are available at [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie)

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Gospel Reflection

As Jesus stands in the synagogue, he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, he brings this salvation about in his person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection.

Archbishop Farrell reminds us of the context we find ourselves in as we embark upon a synodal pathway. This context is one of an ever-changing Church in an ever-changing world.



The Church centered around the monasteries of early medieval Ireland was replaced by the diocesan Church.

Down through the centuries particular forms of Church life flourished, waned and were replaced by another one. The Church is continually changing and adapting. The people of God are a people on the move, a people on pilgrimage through life and history. This is how the Church actually is: never static, but continually responding to a changing cultural context.

What we are experiencing today is a crisis in a particular historical form of Church. The Church, however, is more than any one particular historical form. Since change occurs over a period of years, our generation cannot easily see the contours—not to mention the final form—of what is going to emerge.

There is a deep and serious consultation to discern the promptings of God in our heritage and in the People of God. The Task Force, which I established under the title, "Building Hope", is a step in that direction, as is the National Synod which was announced last March.

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Lord,  
illumine our path by the light of Christ  
who moves us and leads us.  
Guide us to discover a small manger  
in our hearts where a great light still sleeps.  
Creator of light,  
we thank you for the gift  
of that unfading Star, Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and Savior.  
Heal our divisions and draw us closer to the Light  
that we may find our unity in him.  
Amen.

#CSW2022



**Catholic Schools Week 2022**  
**Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full**  
**23rd January - 30th January**

**Monday**  
Living Life to the Full with God

**Tuesday**  
Living Life to the Full Together

**Wednesday**  
(Grandparent's Day)  
Celebrating Being Together Again

**Thursday**  
Living Life in Wonder and Awe

**Friday**  
Living Life and Facing the Future

**Bearna Chlé N.S.**

Enrolling now for September 2022

Forms available at [www.bearnachlens.ie](http://www.bearnachlens.ie)  
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Or email us at [bcjohnstown@gmail.com](mailto:bcjohnstown@gmail.com)

Check out our website  
[www.bearnachlens.ie](http://www.bearnachlens.ie)

to see our fantastic facilities and what our school has to offer

**Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir**

Enrolling now for September 2022 Forms  
available at [www.gaelscoilim.ie](http://www.gaelscoilim.ie)



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Check out our website on  
[www.gaelscoilim.ie](http://www.gaelscoilim.ie)



## With Sympathy

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of  
Edward (Ed) Long  
Florence Myler  
Margaret Kearon  
Elizabeth Byrne  
Who died recently may they rest in peace.