

Ballineaspaig Parish Bulletin

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Bulletin
21/11/2021

Ministers of the Eucharist Rota for November 2021 to 2022 can be collected at the Church this weekend of the 20th / 21st November.

MASS TIMES

Sunday

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

Weekdays

9.30am

Eve of Holydays

7.30pm

Holydays

9.00, 10.30 &

7.30pm

Christmas appeal for Turkwel - your chance to buy a unique, sustainable gift

Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we funded a new Maternity Unit in Kalemnyung, Turkwel, Kenya in 2020, followed by an adjacent kitchen and storeroom in 2021.

For the safety and security of the patients and staff, the entire compound now needs to be enclosed by a 650 metre fence. The total cost of the fence is estimated at €15,098. A balance of €8,523 remains following completion of the kitchen, so we need to raise €6,575. We are now offering Christmas gift certificates for sale.

If you would like to donate by buying a gift certificate, please pick up an envelope in the Church after Masses on 20/21st November, or from the Parish Office any weekday morning

Or you can simply donate without buying a certificate, directly to the Faith in Action – Turkwel account, AIB, Western Road, IBAN 93419423320035, BIC AIBKIE2D, or by cheque or cash – simply place your donation in an envelope marked “Turkwel Fence” and return it at any of the weekend Masses, by post to the Parish Office, or by hand to Fr. Bertie or Fr. Tom.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Rev. Frank McKevitt

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34TH Sunday (B)

21st November, 2021

John 18: 33-37

“Are you King of the Jews” It seemed a straightforward enough question. But was it really a question at all? Pilate looked at the bedraggled, bruised, blood stained pathetic looking prisoner standing there in front of him – arrested by His own people and handed over to the forces of occupation to be sentenced to death by the civil power for some religious matter.

How could He possibly be a King? A King in Pilates's book had authority and influence, a leader with power and control. This man had nothing at all to outward appearances. Surely He could not be any threat to the Roman Emperor and that was what mattered to Pilate. He was terrified of losing his own job if there was any civil unrest in that fringe outpost of the Empire. He was so pre-occupied with his own welfare that he could not afford to even glimpse the kind of King that Jesus was claiming to be. It was not that of an authoritarian autocrat but rather an authoritative leader in love and service, in truth and justice. He was one who would give his life for those He loved.

The Gospel puts a challenging question to each of us as does the world around us today. “Are you really a follower of Jesus, the Royal Pretender?”

To all outward appearances, we seem to be the genuine article gathered here for Eucharist today. Here I am all suitably and ceremoniously dressed for the occasion. But is being here at Eucharist what makes me or any of us a genuine follower and disciple of Jesus? It is a part of the story, a very important part, but it is not the whole story and maybe not even an essential part.

What did Jesus claim made Him King? He was sent by the Father to be a witness to the truth. The truth was and is that each of us is a beloved child of God, enabled to live our lives in service to one another and to the whole human family. An integral part of this service is to respect and protect God's creation and to share its bountiful gifts fairly and justly with each other and especially with the less fortunate. To ensure that this happens followers of Jesus are empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit to be leaders (locally and globally) in building up the Kingdom of God wherever life takes us.

For Jesus this witness of service flourished under His personal touch, not merely at arm's length. Such service is only given at great cost to those who give it. It cost Jesus, our King, His life. Am I like Pilate, even afraid to glimpse what Jesus did and in turn asks of us? Am I intimidated by Calvary or inspired by it?

In prayer, we ask the Spirit to lead us in courageous witness that blossoms in justice, peace, happiness through love.

Fr. Tom Clancy

PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available **weekly** on the Parish Website: or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.

