

DIOCESE OF KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN

## PRAYING IN UNION WITH OUR BISHOP, PRIESTS & DEACONS

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PRAYERS FOR WEEKDAY LITURGIES AND THE HOME  
FOR THE PEOPLE AND NEEDS OF OUR DIOCESE



WEEK OF DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS  
JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> 2020

## INTRODUCTION

In the third week of January Bishop Denis will lead a Kildare and Leighlin diocesan assembly of priests and deacons in Athlone. This will mean that in many of the parishes of our diocese there will not be a priest available to celebrate weekday Mass. However, Bishop Denis is encouraging parishes to keep their normal schedule of weekday liturgy from January 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> and for parishioners to continue to gather for prayer on those days when they normally celebrate Mass.

Furthermore, Bishop Denis is inviting people across the diocese to join in praying for the needs and the people of the diocese in union with our priests and deacons. Parishioners are invited to write their prayer intentions and leave them in the church. Families are invited to pray the diocesan prayer in the home during this week while the weekday assemblies of people are encouraged to bring the needs and people of the diocese to their prayer together.

As we read in Acts, gathering for public prayer on a weekday has been part of the earliest tradition of the Church, even in the absence of an ordained priest. Over time a particular prayer form emerged for these weekday gatherings, namely the liturgy of the hours (or what some might have heard referred to as the Divine Office). To this day, the liturgy of the hours, with its principal hours of Morning and Evening Prayer, is the daily prayer of the Church. This prayer continues to be prayed across the world; it is rightfully the prayer of the people of God. When Mass cannot be celebrated in the parish the Church recommends this prayer, or a Celebration of God's Word, as the most suitable alternative.

As a people we can be assured that, even in the absence of an ordained priest, when we gather to pray in God's name Christ is with us, nourishing us with his presence. When we proclaim the Word of God it is Christ who speaks to us, nourishing us with his Word.

**This resource book is offered by Kildare and Leighlin Faith Development Services and the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese Commission for Liturgical Formation to support parishioners in praying together during this week of prayer for the people of the diocese, as well as supporting prayer in the home. Its content can also serve as a model for other times when a priest is not available to celebrate Mass on a weekday.**

Julie Kavanagh  
January 2020

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## SUNDAY MASS SUGGESTIONS

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The opportunity can be taken at Masses in parishes today to publicly bless those who will lead prayer in the parish during the coming week, in the absence of the priest(s) of the parish. This daily prayer can be seen as praying in union with the Bishop, priests and deacons of the diocese while they are away.

### OUTLINE OF CONTENT FOR SUNDAY

- Blessing of prayer leaders and presentation of prayer resource book.
- Invitation to parishioners to share prayer intentions.
- Use of two texts for the prayer of the faithful on Sunday and the weekdays.
- Prayer for the Diocese for use in the home and in the Church.
- Sunday Bulletin Notice template.

### BLESSING OF PRAYER LEADERS AND PRESENTATION OF PRAYER RESOURCE BOOK.

*After the homily the celebrant invites those who are to lead the daily prayer during the week to come forward.*

*He reminds the congregation that they have been invited by the parish and resourced by the diocese to fulfil this role.*

*He thanks them on behalf of the parish for their willingness to give this service. He then prays the following prayer over them (If desired, he can invite the assembly to extend their hands also):*

#### PRAYER OF BLESSING

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
creator of the universe and Father of all:  
you have called us to serve you and praise you in the family of your Church.  
Help us to hear your word and praise you by our worship and our lives.  
Look with love upon these men and women who are to lead your people in prayer this week.  
Bless + them and fill them with your Spirit  
so that they may proclaim your Word and guide us in our worship.  
Through their service may your kingdom come among us  
and may we be inspired to serve you each day.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

**PRESENTATION:** *the celebrant gives a copy of the book of prayer resources to each leader, or to one of the leaders on behalf of them all, saying:*

This is the Word of God. Be worthy of the message you proclaim among the people that God has called his own, and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO PARISHIONERS TO SHARE PRAYER INTENTIONS:**

*Parishioners can be invited to write petitions for inclusion in the daily intercessory prayer. These can be very simple in nature. A box/container can be placed in the church for these petitions. One of the prayer leaders could check this box and include these prayers in the Intercessory prayer each day.*

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*The following two prayers can be included on the Sunday and on each day.*

We pray for our bishop, Denis and for the priests and deacons of our diocese. May the Holy Spirit come upon them in a powerful way as they take part in their assembly so that they may be renewed to lead their people.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all the people of our diocese; may the Lord's blessing come upon each one according to their need.

Lord, hear us.

## **DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR USE IN THE HOME AND AT THE SUNDAY & WEEKDAY LITURGY**

*The following diocesan prayer can be prayed each day by people in their homes as well as during or at the end of the Morning/Evening Prayer. It might also be used at the Sunday Mass at the conclusion of the Prayer of the Faithful or before the Final Blessing. Ideally this prayer will be printed on a prayer card for distribution or in the Parish Bulletin.*

## **PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE**

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.

May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.

Bless its Bishop, priests, deacons, religious & laity.

Fill them with the light of your love.

Bless its young people.

Help them to seek your truth.

Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by life's hurts.

Grant them justice, light and hope.

Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna.

Amen.

## BULLETIN NOTICE TEMPLATES

*The following two notices can be adapted locally to best suit needs.*

### 1. PRAYING IN UNION WITH OUR PRIESTS FOR THE PEOPLE AND NEEDS OF OUR DIOCESE

Bishop Denis is leading an assembly of the priests and deacons of the diocese in Athlone from the afternoon of January 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. During this time, Bishop Denis is inviting the people of the diocese to join with him, the priests and deacons in praying for the needs and intentions of all in our diocese. You are very welcome to write your own prayer intentions in the space provided in the church. These will be prayed for during the week at the liturgies that will be celebrated in our parish. You are also invited to pray the diocesan prayer each day during the week in the home.

We will be keeping the following schedule in the church this week:  
*(indicate times and days of Morning Prayer/ Celebration of the Word)*

*(If/As applicable)* Masses will be available locally in the coming week as follows:  
*(Day, time, church)*

### 2. WHY ARE WE PRAYING MORNING PRAYER?

*(The text in bold is a shorter form that can be used as an alternative to the longer notice.)*

As recorded in Scripture, alongside the primary gathering that was Sunday Eucharist, in early church communities people also assembled on weekdays for the daily nourishment of shared prayer. In this way they were responding to the call to pray without ceasing. **While undergoing different forms over the centuries, what we know today as the Liturgy of the Hours (or what some might have heard referred to as the Divine Office) is considered to have been the daily prayer of Christians from the beginning.**

**To this day, the Liturgy of the Hours, with its principal hours of Morning and Evening Prayer, continues to be the daily prayer of the Church. Every day this prayer is prayed across the world; it is rightfully the prayer of the people of God. When Mass cannot be celebrated in the parish the Church recommends this prayer, or a Celebration of God's Word, as the most suitable alternative.**

The psalms have been called the prayer book of the Christian and at the heart of the Liturgy of the Hours is the praying of the psalms. Alongside Scripture, prayers of intercession and hymns of praise, the Liturgy of the Hours gives us an opportunity to connect with this Christian prayer book in a new way as the psalms are prayerfully recited by the community who have gathered to pray together.

## OUTLINE OF THE FORMAT OF MORNING PRAYER

<p>♪ <i>Indicates parts that can be sung</i></p>	
<p><b>OPENING VERSE</b> ♪ <span style="float: right;"><b>STAND</b></span></p>	
<p>Leader: O God, come to our aid.                  All: O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father...Alleluia</p>	
<p><i>ALTERNATIVELY FOR MORNING PRAYER</i></p>	
<p>Leader: O Lord, open our lips.                  All: And we shall praise your name. Glory be to the Father... Alleluia</p>	
<p><b>HYMN</b> ♪</p>	
<p><b>PSALMODY*</b> ♪ <span style="float: right;"><b>SIT</b></span></p>	
<p>Antiphon 1 read by leader.                  A Morning Psalm                  Antiphon repeated by all.                  (Silent prayer)</p>	<p>Antiphon 2 read by leader                  (An Old Testament Canticle)                  Antiphon repeated by all.                  (Silent prayer)</p>
<p>Antiphon 3 read by leader.                  A Psalm                  Antiphon repeated by all.                  (Silent prayer)</p>	
<p><i>*The number of psalms prayed can be reduced. This might be particularly wise in the early stages as people get used to this form of prayer.</i></p>	
<p><b>SCRIPTURE READING</b>                  (Silent Prayer /Reflection)</p>	
<p><b>SHORT RESPONSORY*</b></p>	
<p><i>*May be omitted.</i></p>	
<p><b>GOSPEL CANTICLE</b> ♪ <span style="float: right;"><b>STAND</b></span></p>	
<p>Antiphon read by leader                  Canticle of Zechariah (the Benedictus)                  Antiphon repeated by all.</p>	
<p><b>INTERCESSIONS</b> ♪</p>	
<p><b>THE LORD'S PRAYER</b> ♪</p>	
<p><b>CONCLUDING PRAYER &amp; CONCLUSION OF THE HOUR</b> ♪</p>	
<p>Leader: May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.                  All: Amen.</p>	



## ACCOMPANYING NOTES ON MORNING PRAYER

**SET UP** Aside from other set up considerations, before people gather for this prayer, any candles that are usually in place near or on the ambo and altar are lit.

**THE OPENING VERSE** The prayer leader begins the prayer from their appointed place. The prayer leader, unless he is a priest, does not sit in the presider's chair (or the priest's chair) but is in a position where he/she is both visible and audible. Just as we do at any other liturgical prayer in the church, we stand for the opening. Remembering the promise of Jesus, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name I am there', in our posture of standing we are showing honour to Christ and greeting the risen Lord in our midst.

As is also customary, we mark ourselves with the sign of the cross. This is typically done as people make the response to the leader, 'O Lord, make haste to help us'/ 'And my mouth will proclaim your praise'. This verse can be recited or sung.

**THE HYMN** The opening hymn is intended to be a familiar hymn that all present can sing, for example 'Christ be beside Me' or 'Be Thou my Vision'. It might speak to the time of day. It might speak of praise, creation, or gathering. During the seasons of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, a seasonal hymn can be used. In many instances in a local parish this will be without accompaniment so care should be taken in its selection. Incense may be placed in a bowl during the singing of this hymn.

**PSALMODY** Just as we do at other celebrations, people sit for the praying of the psalms. The psalms have often been called the Christian prayer book and the praying of the psalms is at the heart of the Liturgy of the Hours. Over the course of four weeks, through the various Hours that are prayed by the Church, practically all 150 psalms are prayed. Thus, in a four week cycle each Hour is assigned particular psalms and canticles.

For a local community starting out with this prayer, it may be too ambitious to do all the psalms assigned to a particular hour on a particular day. A community may decide to do two, or even one, initially. A community may also decide to settle on a particular set of psalms and repeat them daily/weekly before, over time, expanding the repertoire of psalms prayed. For this week of prayer two texts have been selected on each day. Those leading the prayer should consider how to lead these psalms in a way to ensure that they are not rushed.

A psalm may be sung using a psalm tone or it may be sung using a responsorial style, as we experience at Mass. The psalms can also be recited in a number of different ways: 1) alternating between two groups, i.e. men/women, one side of the church and the other; 2) alternating between the leader and the whole group or 3) recited by just one person. Typically, recited or chanted psalms conclude with the prayer, Glory be...

Each psalm is assigned an **antiphon** for the particular Hour. This is usually a verse of a psalm or other piece of Scripture. The antiphon text contains the fundamental thought of the psalm to which it is allotted, and indicates the point of view from which the psalm can be understood.

The **silence** between the psalms is very necessary, allowing time for what we have just prayed in the psalm to enter deeper into our hearts before moving onto the next one.

The two psalms of the hour are traditionally accompanied by an Old Testament Cantic (hymn) in the morning and a New Testament Cantic in the evening.

**SCRIPTURE READING** This can be led from the ambo (the place from where readings are normally proclaimed in church) and is read by someone other than the prayer leader. Unlike in the Mass, the reader simply proclaims the verses without an introduction or conclusion, i.e. without saying 'A Reading

From...The Word of the Lord'. Each Liturgy of the Hours on a given day has a particular reading assigned to it. As this is a very short reading, its verses may be extended. After this reading people are given time to ponder, pray and reflect on the Word of God they have just received.

**SHORT RESPONSORY** In both morning and evening prayer a short responsory verse is assigned to follow the Scripture reading. When used, it is led by the leader with the people responding. The responsory is linked to the reading that has gone before it. It serves as a kind of acclamation, enabling God's Word to enter deeper into the heart and mind of the one listening or reading.

**GOSPEL CANTICLE** The leader introduces the Canticle (Hymn) by standing and reciting its antiphon. This Gospel text is the highpoint of Morning Prayer. We mark this highpoint by moving to a standing posture and by blessing ourselves at the beginning of the Canticle. It can be further emphasised through the use of incense. This might be as simple as placing grains of incense on the coal as the Canticle begins.

Ideally the Canticle is sung. It might be part of the goals of a leadership group to work towards having a setting for the Benedictus that is both familiar and popular in your particular parish. This is especially recommended given that the Gospel Canticle will be prayed every time you gather for Morning Prayer.

**INTERCESSIONS** While remaining standing, we present our prayers and intercessions to God. Again, there are intercessions assigned to the Hour but these can be adapted or added to, depending on local needs. It is at this point that parishes are invited to pray for the intentions that have been written by people. As shared prayer, these prayers can be led by someone other than the prayer leader. Some parishes might choose to sing a simple response to the intercessions.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** The prayer leader invites all to pray the Lord's Prayer together. The praying of the Lord's Prayer at Morning Prayer flows from the early Church tradition of Christians praying the Lord's Prayer thrice daily. Recited or sung, it reminds us of the daily nourishment we receive from God, even in the absence of Eucharist.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER AND CONCLUSION OF HOUR** The prayer leader draws the time of prayer to a close with a concluding prayer. This concluding prayer may be one that 1) is taken from the Hour of the day, 2) is repeated at each gathering or 3) may be one that is seasonal in nature and tone. In this resource we are using the text of the diocesan prayer as the concluding prayer for each day. After this prayer, those gathered make the Sign of the Cross as the prayer leader asks God's blessing on him/her and those gathered. The people respond, Amen. This conclusion can be sung or recited.

## PREPARATION MEETING GUIDE FOR LEADERS OF MORNING PRAYER

*The following steps are suggested to groups as they meet and work with the prayer, preparing it in order to take it from a text to an experience of shared, communal prayer.*

1. Read the accompanying notes for morning prayer fully and then read the text of the particular morning prayer

Each participant reads through the full text of the prayer by themselves, noting the different elements as they already saw on their previous handout on the format of Morning Prayer. Try to imagine the prayer beyond the text and how it might be prayed in your particular church building.

2. Consider the following as a group

As you do so, bear in mind all the time the people in your parish who ultimately you hope will pray this prayer, or similar, in your particular church when Mass is not possible.

a) The prayer space Think of the setting of this prayer, the space in which people will gather. How will this space be prepared? Where will be the focus of people's attention? If people are praying before the sanctuary, the altar candles and any candles by the ambo are lit for this prayer. Will you make any particular set up changes in the church for this prayer? Consider the seating arrangement of all who gather and where the prayer leader will sit. Think about the lighting, heat and sound that might be needed.

b) The final text to be used Again, consider the people who will gather for this prayer. In light of this, are you happy to go with the text as provided or do you need to make any amendments? Is there an alternative opening hymn you would like to use? Are there other intercessions you would prefer to use? Do you wish to extend the verses in the scripture reading on any of the days?

c) Praying the psalms How will the psalms be prayed in your particular setting? It might be a combination of alternating verses between a reader and people, between men and women, between one side of the church and another, reading the psalm through together or with a single voice. Depending on resources, one or more of the texts might even be sung! If recited, think carefully about how you will facilitate the psalm being prayed meditatively and slowly rather than being rushed through!

d) Verbal elements Think of the verbal elements of this prayer, for example, the opening and closing of the prayer time, the psalms and scripture, intercessions, invitation to pray the Lord's Prayer and the concluding prayer and to whom these elements are being addressed. When proclaiming texts to the assembly, for example scripture, remember to actually look at the people as much as you can, rather than having your head buried in a text. Anyone leading these verbal elements should do so slowly and clearly.

Who will speak these different verbal elements? How many people do you need from the point of view of readers and prayer leader? How will you ensure that these people can be heard? (Note: A folder can be left on the ambo before the prayer starts with the day's reading and intercessions.)

e) Music Consider when music might be used during this prayer. Whilst you might wish to start modestly, the full set of possibilities include: opening and closing verse, the opening hymn, psalmody,

Benedictus, response to intercessions and the Lord's Prayer. At a minimum could you sing the opening hymn and the Benedictus? The text of the Benedictus provided in this Morning Prayer resource can be sung to the air of 'The King of Love My Shepherd is'.

f) Non-verbal elements Consider the non-verbal elements in the prayer, such as movement, posture (standing/ sitting), gesture (sign of the cross, bowing) and pace of the prayer. How might these non-verbal elements be carried out with reverence and grace? How will the use of silence be best utilised to enhance the prayer experience? How will you ensure that the silence will happen? Will incense be used during the singing of the opening hymn and the Gospel Cantic? Something as simple as leading the prayer with the use of a folder rather than loose sheets of paper speaks volumes!

g) Participation of the people & hospitality to them What do you think will help people's participation in this prayer? How can you help to involve them in the prayer? How will they be welcomed and how will they have what they need in order to pray this prayer? Will it be clear in any welcome before the prayer that the prayer leaders are there on behalf of and in the name of the parish in this instance when your priest cannot be with you for the celebration of Mass, if this is the case? Any instructions to people, for example about how the psalms will be prayed, ought to be done before the prayer begins and not during. Who will give this instruction? A vital part of hospitality requires that those preparing and /or leading prayer arrive in good time and have everything in place before people arrive for prayer!

h) Openings and closings Think about how this prayer will begin and finish. How will the prayer leader take his/her place among people and how will they depart? Remember that it is worth taking those extra few seconds to settle in your place and be present in a space before beginning. A prayer leader might spend some moments seated in quiet prayer before standing to begin the prayer.

i) Assigning tasks Having looked at this prayer and having made some decisions together, what ministers do you need to assign to it: prayer leader, readers, music, hospitality, set up & putting away, instruction giver (!), other? Begin to put names beside the tasks.

j) Final check Have you everything in place that you need in order to pray this prayer? Is there any one that needs to be communicated with ahead of time, i.e. sacristan, parish secretary, key holder...? Is everyone clear on what they have to do? Is there any clarification needed?

## Words of Introduction for Each Day

### Monday

On this day we gather as a Christian community as we normally would but, because our priest cannot be with us, we are unable to celebrate the Mass. However, we have the gift of Morning Prayer that we can pray together. This is the prayer of the Church, the prayer which belongs to the people of God. Because we gather in the name of the Lord we can be assured that Christ is with us and among us.

In this time let us offer our praise to God and bring our needs and the needs of the people of the diocese to him in prayer, as we join in prayerful union with our bishop, priests and deacons of the diocese as they hold their assembly. (pause)

And so as we begin, let us hold Bishop Denis, our priests, our deacons, our parish and our diocese in prayer. (pause)

### Tuesday

Today we gather as a Christian community, to pray the Morning Prayer of the Church.

To-day is the feast of St Agnes. She was martyred in Rome at the end of the third – or beginning of the fourth century. Agnes aged 13, chose Christ as her spouse, refused to worship the Roman Gods, was denounced and condemned to death. She is the patron of young women.

As part of this praying community we offer our praise to God and bring our needs and the needs of the people of the diocese to him in prayer. (pause)

And so as we begin, let us hold Bishop Denis, our priests, our deacons, our parish and our diocese in prayer. (pause)

### Wednesday

As we begin the Morning Prayer of the Church we remember that this is the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for 2020 is from the Acts of the Apostles.

‘They showed us unusual kindness’

This theme stresses the unusual kindness given to St. Paul when he was shipwrecked on one of his missionary journeys. Through kindness people are drawn closer together, heeding the prayer of Jesus, ‘that they all may be one’

Because we gather in the name of the Lord we can be assured that Christ is with us and among us.

We offer our praise to God and bring our needs and the needs of the many migrants and refugees who seek a better life, to Him in prayer. (pause)

As we begin, let us hold Bishop Denis, our priests, our deacons, our parish and our diocese in prayer. (pause)

## READING FOR MORNING PRAYER EACH DAY

*The reader at Morning Prayer reads the assigned reading from the ambo without any introductory or concluding phrases, i.e. the reader does not say “A reading from” or “The Word of the Lord”.*

### **Monday Morning Scripture Reading**

**Jeremiah 15:16**

When your words came, I devoured them: your word was my delight and the joy of my heart; for I was called by your name, Lord, God of hosts.

### **Tuesday Morning Scripture Reading**

**2 Cor 1:3-5**

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes! He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help those who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings so also through Christ we share in his great help.

### **Wednesday Morning Prayer**

**Rom 8: 35-37**

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? Yet in all this we are conquerors, through him who has granted us his love.

## Intercessions for Each Day

*Intercessions written by parishioners can be included at this time*

### MONDAY INTERCESSIONS

**RESPONSE: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Christ has given us all a share in his priesthood. We offer our prayers and ourselves in union with him.  
(pause) (R)

Jesus Christ, you are the eternal priest: make this morning's offering acceptable to the Father  
(pause) (R)

Lord, you are love itself: grant that we may love you. (pause) (R)

Give us today the fruits of the Holy Spirit: make us patient, kind and gentle. (pause) (R)

Give us the discernment to know the needs of our neighbours and give us the courage to love them as brothers and sisters. (pause) (R)

### TUESDAY INTERCESSIONS

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Gathered together in faith and worship, on this feast of St Agnes, we turn to God confident in his care of us as we pray. (pause) Lord hear us. (R)

May we take example from the courage shown by St Agnes. May our faith be a beacon in the world.  
(pause) Lord hear us (R)

Through the intercession of St Agnes, we ask God to bless and protect all our young people.  
(pause) Lord hear us. (R)

In times of doubt and despair may we be strengthened by the presence of God.  
(pause) Lord hear us. (R)

Be with Bishop Denis and all our priests and deacons in these days of their assembly, as they ponder your word and pray for your guidance. (pause) Lord hear us. (R)

We pray for our own particular needs this day. (pause) Lord hear us. (R)

### WEDNESDAY INTERCESSIONS

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who help share the Word of God in our parish, for our parish team, readers, baptism team members, teachers and parents that their love of the Word may deepen and grow. (pause) Lord, hear us. (R)

Lord, you have given us life and light this morning: let us give thanks for such great gifts.  
(pause) Lord, hear us. (R)

May your Church be united heart and soul as we remember Bishop Denis and the priests and deacons of the Diocese and may your faithful be joined in continuous prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus. (pause) Lord, hear us. (R)

Through the prayers of Mary, our Mother, heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, pardon sinners; and grant peace and salvation to all. (pause) Lord, hear us. (R)

We pray for all the intentions that have been written by parishioners during this week. (R)  
(pause) Lord, hear us.

MORNING PRAYER  
MONDAY, JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2020

INTRODUCTION **Please Stand**

Leader: O God, come to our aid.

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*(Sign of the Cross)*

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.**

HYMN **Be thou my vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
be all else but naught to me save that thou art.  
Be thou my best thought in the day & the night,  
both waking & sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word.  
Be thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord.  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true child.  
Be thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

PSALMODY

**Please Sit**

**Antiphon 1:**

**Psalm 41 (42)**

*Leader: When can I enter and see the face of God?*

Like the deer that yearns  
for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning  
for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see  
the face of God?

My tears have become my bread,  
by night, by day,  
as I hear it said all the day long:  
'Where is your God?'

These things will I remember  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd  
into the house of God,  
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,  
the throng wild with joy.

Why are you cast down, my soul,  
why groan within me?  
Hope in God; I will praise him still,  
my saviour and my God.

My soul is cast down within me  
as I think of you,  
from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon,  
from the Hill of Mizar.

Deep is calling on deep,  
in the roar of waters;  
your torrents and all your waves  
swept over me.

By day the Lord will send  
his loving kindness;  
by night I will sing to him,  
praise the God of my life.

I will say to God, my rock:  
'Why have you forgotten me?  
Why do I go mourning  
oppressed by the foe?'

With cries that pierce me to the heart,  
my enemies revile me,  
saying to me all the day long:  
'Where is your God?'

Why are you cast down, my soul  
why groan within me?  
Hope in God; I will praise him still,  
my saviour and my God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Silence**

**Antiphon 2**

**Psalm 18 (19)**

*Leader: Blessed are you, Lord, in the vault of  
heaven.*

The heavens proclaim the glory of God,  
and the firmament shows forth the work of his  
hands.

Day unto day takes up the story and  
night unto night makes known the message.



No speech, no word, no voice is heard yet their span extends through all the earth, their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent, rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun; to the furthest end of the sky is its course. There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**All:** Blessed are you, Lord, in the vault of heaven.

*Silence*

**SHORT READING** **Jeremiah 15:16**

When your words came, I devoured them: your word was my delight and the joy of my heart; for I was called by your name, Lord, God of hosts.

*In silence we ponder and pray on God's Word*

**SHORT RESPONSORY**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.**

Leader: Sing to him a new song.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.**

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**All: Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.**

**GOSPEL CANTICLE**

Antiphon:

**Leader: Blessed be the Lord, for he has visited us and freed us.**

Now bless the God of Israel (*Sign of the Cross*), who comes in love and pow'r, who raises from the royal house deliv'rance in this hour.

Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,

to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear, that we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year.

And you, my child, shall go before to preach to prophesy, that all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send The dayspring from on high, our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

God comes to guide our way to peace that death shall reign no more, sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore!

**All: Blessed be the Lord, our God**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE**

Lord,  
bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.  
May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.  
Bless its Bishop, priests, deacons, religious & laity.  
Fill them with the light of your love.  
Bless its young people.  
Help them to seek your truth.  
Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by life's hurts.  
Grant them justice, light and hope.  
Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna.  
Amen.

**CONCLUDING VERSE**

**Leader:** *The Lord bless us, (Sign of the Cross) and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. All: Amen*

MORNING PRAYER  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020  
ST AGNES, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

**INTRODUCTION**                      **Please Stand**

Leader: O God, come to our aid.

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*(Sign of the Cross)*

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.**

**HYMN**                                      **Christ be beside me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

**WORDS OF INTRODUCTION**

**PSALMODY**                                      **Please Sit**

**Antiphon 1:**                                      **Psalm 42 (43)**

**Leader: Lord, send forth your light and our truth**

Defend me, O God, and plead my cause  
against a godless nation.  
From deceitful and cunning men  
rescue me, O God.

Since you, O God, are my stronghold  
why have you rejected me?  
Why do I go mourning, oppressed by the foe?

O send forth your light and your truth;  
let these be my guide.  
Let them bring me to your holy mountain  
to the place where you dwell.

And I will come to the altar of God,  
the God of my Joy.  
My redeemer I will thank you on the harp,  
O God, my God.

Why are you cast down my soul,  
why groan within me?  
Hope in God; I will praise him still,  
my saviour and my God.

**Glory be to the Father ....**

**All: Lord, send forth your light and your truth.**

**Silence**

**Antiphon 2: Psalm 64(65)**

**Leader: To you our praise is due in Sion, o God.**

To you our praise is due  
in Sion, O God.  
To you we pay our vows,  
You who hear our prayer.

To you all flesh will come  
with its burden of sin.  
Too heavy for us, our offences,  
But you wipe them away.

Blessed is he whom you choose and call  
to dwell in your courts.  
We are filled with the blessing of your house,  
of your holy temple.

You keep your pledge with wonders  
O God our saviour;  
the hope of all the earth  
and of far distant isles.

You uphold the mountains with your strength,  
You are girded with power.  
You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves  
and the tumult of the peoples.

The ends of the earth stand in awe  
at the sight of your wonders.  
The lands of sunrise and sunset  
You fill with your joy.

You care for the earth, give it water,  
You fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over,  
to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;  
You drench its furrows,

You level it, soften it with showers,  
You bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
In the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout with joy, yes, they sing.

**Glory be to the Father ...**

**All: To you our praise is due in Sion, o God.**

**SHORT READING**            2Cor 1:3-5

*In silence we ponder and pray on God's Word*

**SHORT RESPONSORY**

Leader: Bend my heart to your will, O God.

**All: Bend my heart to your will, O God.**

Leader: By your word, give me life.

**All: Bend my heart to your will, O God**

Leader: Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: Bend my heart to your will, O God**

**GOSPEL CANTICLE**

**Please Stand**

**Antiphon:**

**Benedictus**

**Leader: What I desired I now see; what I hoped  
for I now possess. I am united in heaven with the  
one I loved on earth.**

Now bless the God of Israel (*Sign of the Cross*)  
who comes in love and pow'r,  
who raises from the royal house  
deliv'rance in this hour.

Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.

And you, my child, shall go before  
to preach to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,

our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.

God comes to guide our way to peace  
that death shall reign no more,  
sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

**All: What I desired I now see; what I hoped for I  
now possess. I am united in heaven with the one  
I loved on earth.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE**

Lord,  
bless the faith community of Kildare &  
Leighlin which traces its origins to  
Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.  
May it be outstanding in charity  
as St. Brigid of Kildare,  
may it be constant in faith  
as St. Conleth of Old Connell,  
wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.  
Bless its Bishop, priests, deacons, religious &  
laity.  
Fill them with the light of your love.  
Bless its young people.  
Help them to seek your truth.  
Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by  
life's hurts.  
Grant them justice, light and hope.  
Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna.  
Amen.

**CONCLUDING VERSE**

*Leader: The Lord bless us, (Sign of the Cross)  
and keep us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.*

**All: Amen**

MORNING PRAYER  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020  
PSALTER WEEK 2

**INTRODUCTION**      **Please Stand**

Leader: O God, come to our aid.

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*(Sign of the Cross)* **Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**HYMN**      **Be Thou My Vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
be all else but naught to me save that thou art.  
Be thou my best thought in the day & the night,  
both waking & sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word.  
Be thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord.  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true child.  
Be thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

**WORDS OF INTRODUCTION**

**PSALMODY**

**Antiphon 1:**

**Please Sit**  
**Psalm 76 (77)**

**Leader: Your ways, O God, are holy.  
What God is great as our God?**

I cry aloud to God,  
cry aloud to God that he may hear me.

In the day of my distress I sought the Lord.  
My hands were raised at night without ceasing:  
my soul refused to be consoled.  
I remembered my God and I groaned.  
I pondered and my spirit fainted.

You withheld sleep from my eyes.  
I was troubled, I could not speak.  
I thought of the days of long ago  
and remembered the years long past.  
At night I mused within my heart.  
I pondered and my spirit questioned.

‘Will the Lord reject us forever?  
Will he show us his favour no more?  
Has his love vanished forever?  
Has his promise come to an end?  
Does God forget his mercy  
or in anger withhold his compassion?’

I said: ‘This is what causes my grief;  
that the way of the Most High has changed.’  
I remember the deeds of the Lord,  
I remember your wonders of old,  
I muse on all your works  
and ponder your mighty deeds.

Your ways, O God, are holy.  
What god is great as our God?  
You are the God who works wonders.  
You showed your power among the peoples.  
Your strong arm redeemed your people,  
the sons of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw you, O God,  
the waters saw you and trembled;  
the depths were moved with terror.  
The clouds poured down rain,  
the skies sent forth their voice;  
your arrows flashed to and fro.

Your thunder rolled round the sky,  
your flashes lighted up the world.  
The earth was moved and trembled  
when your way led through the sea,  
your path through the mighty waters  
and no one saw your footprints.

You guided your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.

**All: Your ways, O God, are holy. What God is  
great as our God?**

**Silence**

**Antiphon 2:**      **Psalm 96 (97)**  
**Leader: The Lord is king, let earth rejoice.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
let all the coastlands be glad.  
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;  
his throne, justice and right.

A fire prepares his path;  
it burns up his foes on every side.  
His lightnings light up the world,  
the earth trembles at the sight.

The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory.

Let those who serve idols be ashamed,  
those who boast of their worthless gods.  
All you spirits, worship him.

Sion hears and is glad;  
the people of Judah rejoice  
because of your judgements O Lord.

For you indeed are the Lord  
most high above all the earth  
exalted far above all spirits.

The Lord loves those who hate evil:  
he guards the souls of his saints  
he sets them free from the wicked.

Light shines forth for the just  
and joy for the upright of heart.  
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;  
give glory to his holy name.

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**All: The Lord is king, let earth rejoice.**

**SHORT READING** **Rom 8: 35,37**  
*In silence we ponder and pray on God's Word*

**SHORT RESPONSORY**

Leader: I will praise the Lord at all times.

**All: I will praise the Lord at all times.**

Leader: His praise will be always on my lips.

**All: His praise will be always on my lips.**

Leader: Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: His praise will be always on my lips.**

**GOSPEL CANTICLE** **Benedictus**

Antiphon: **Please Stand**

**Leader: Let us serve the Lord in holiness all our days**

Now bless the God of Israel (*Sign of the Cross*)  
who comes in love and pow'r,

who raises from the royal house  
deliv'rance in this hour.

Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.

And you, my child, shall go before  
to preach to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send  
The dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.

God comes to guide our way to peace  
that death shall reign no more,  
sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

**All: Let us serve the Lord in holiness all our days**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE**

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare &  
Leighlin which traces its origins to  
Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.

May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of  
Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth  
of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St.  
Laserian of Leighlin. Bless its Bishop, priests,  
religious & laity. Fill them with the light of your  
love.

Bless its young people. Help them to seek your  
truth. Bless all who are poor or weak or  
wounded by life's hurts. Grant them justice,  
light and hope.

Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna. Amen.

**CONCLUDING VERSE**

**Leader: The Lord bless us, (*Sign of the Cross*)  
and keep us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life. All: Amen**

## Outline of the Format for a Celebration of the Word

\*Elements in ( ) are offered as suggestions. 🎵 Indicates parts that can be sung where resources allow.

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN 🎵 **STAND**  
 (CARRYING IN OF THE LECTIONARY)

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. All: Amen.

Leader: Your word, O God, is a lamp for our steps. All: And a light for our path.

(WORDS OF INTRODUCTION)

PENITENTIAL ACT 🎵

COLLECT

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING **SIT**  
 SILENCE

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 🎵  
 SILENCE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 🎵 **STAND**

GOSPEL **SIT**  
 SILENCE

(SHORT REFLECTION)

(SUNG RESPONSE 🎵) **STAND**

INTERCESSIONS 🎵 **STAND**

OUR FATHER 🎵

### CONCLUDING RITE

CONCLUDING PRAYER  
 (WITH GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE SCRIPTURES)

CLOSING VERSE WITH SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: Let us bless the Lord. People: Thanks be to God. **Or**

Leader: May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

People: Amen. 🎵

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN 🎵

## Accompanying Notes on a Celebration of the Word

**SET UP** Aside from other set up considerations, before the liturgy begins, any candles that are usually in place near or on the ambo and altar are lit.

**OPENING HYMN** The opening hymn unites into one voice all who have gathered as they stand to greet the risen Lord in their midst and begin their time of prayer together. Therefore, this hymn of necessity is one that is known and familiar to those who have gathered. Familiar seasonal hymns are also very appropriate. The opening hymn typically begins when the prayer leader stands in his/her place, marking the beginning of the time of prayer. Again, the prayer leader does not sit in the presider's chair (priest's chair) but should be positioned in a location where he/she is both visible and audible.

**CARRYING IN OF THE LECTIONARY** Given the focus of this liturgy on the Word of God, it would be very appropriate for a member of the community to carry the Lectionary (the ritual book containing the readings) in procession to the ambo during the singing of the opening hymn and to place it on the ambo.

**OPENING GREETING** The text of this exchange between prayer leader and people once more highlights the importance of God's Word. It begins with all present making the Sign of the Cross upon themselves.

**WORDS OF INTRODUCTION** These words, spoken by the prayer leader, might acknowledge from the outset that we are gathering in the absence of an ordained priest and, because of this, we are unable to celebrate the Eucharist. Alternatively, they may very succinctly look forward to something that will be heard in the readings to come or they might make reference to the particular day in the liturgical calendar on which the celebration is taking place. Words of introduction are provided in the text in this resource book. On other occasions, these or similar words might be used.

*For example:* Once again we gather here to be Church. Christ is present with us, as he promised: present in this assembly of his people and in the proclamation of God's Word. As an ordained priest cannot be with us we are unable to celebrate the Eucharist. Today, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world, let us hear and respond to God's Word and give God thanks and praise. We look forward to when we can once more gather together to celebrate the Eucharist.

**PENITENTIAL ACT** To prepare ourselves to hear the Word of God we acknowledge our need for God's mercy and love in the Penitential Act using formulae similar to those which we find in the Mass.

**COLLECT** This prayer is led by the prayer leader. As in the case of all opening and closing prayers, the prayer begins with an invitation to the people to pray, *Let us pray*, which is followed by a moment of silence. In this silence, people bring their own prayer to the common prayer to follow. In this way, the common prayer literally *collects* the people's prayers into one. The people give their assent to this prayer with their Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD – TEXTS** The Liturgy of the Word in a celebration such as this one will typically employ the texts for the Mass of the day. However, on particular occasions parishes may choose to deviate from these texts. Volume III of the Lectionary provides a selection of readings for various needs and occasions. While what is happening in the life of the parish might suggest other readings.

THE READINGS The readings, including the Gospel, can be proclaimed by a variety of parish readers and by people other than the prayer leader. As is always the case, there is no need to say ‘The first reading’ or ‘The responsorial psalm, the response is...’ The Gospel is introduced with the following words: ‘A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to N.’

THE PSALM If possible, we are led in the singing of a responsorial psalm. To this end, we might build up a small repertoire of psalms and use these often, rather than using the psalm of the day. Alternatively, the response might be sung with spoken verses or all of the psalm might be recited by a reader with people reciting the response.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All stand for the Gospel Acclamation which is intended to be sung.

SILENCE Silence is observed between all the readings in order for people to have time to ponder God’s Word. The length of this silence can be developed as time goes on and people get used to it. Any sense of rush should be avoided to the utmost. People will need to be invited to sit for a time of silence after the reading of the Gospel.

REFLECTION The prayer leader or other member of the community may read a reflection or commentary on the readings. There is a growing body of commentaries available for such use and we have included some in this resource material.

SUNG RESPONSE Having pondered God’s Word, the people stand and join in singing a hymn in response to the gift and nourishment of the Word.

INTERCESSIONS All continue to stand for the intercessions, which can have a sung response.

OUR FATHER The prayer leader invites people to pray the Lord’s Prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER As in the case of the Opening Prayer, a set prayer can be put in place for any Celebrations of the Word that take place in the parish or this prayer might take a seasonal tone. Again, a prayer of the day is provided in this resource.

GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE SCRIPTURES As one of the final actions of this prayer, parishes might consider inviting those who have gathered to make a gesture of reverence to the Scriptures. Depending on circumstance, this might involve one of the readers of the day coming forward at this point and holding the closed Lectionary aloft while the prayer leader and the congregation bow to it. Or it might involve all who have gathered coming forward to kiss / make a bow to the Lectionary.

CLOSING VERSE AND DISMISSAL The prayer closes with the invitation to bless the Lord after which all respond and make the Sign of the Cross, before concluding with the words of dismissal and response. Again, both of these verses can be sung if desired.

CLOSING HYMN A well known hymn concludes the celebration. Again, this can be seasonal in nature. Alternatively, people may depart in silence.



## Preparation Meeting Guide for a Celebration of the Word

*The following steps are suggested to parishes as members meet to prepare the prayer in order to take it from a text for prayer to an experience of shared, communal prayer.*

### 1 Read the accompanying notes and the text of the day fully

Each participant reads through the full text of the Celebration of the Word by themselves, noting the different elements as they already saw on the handout on the format of a Celebration of the Word. Try to imagine the prayer beyond the text, as it might be prayed in your particular church by those who gather.

### 2 Consider the following as a group:

As you do so, bear in mind all the time the people in your parish who ultimately you hope will pray this prayer, or similar, in your particular church when Mass is not possible.

#### a) The prayer space

Think of the setting of this prayer, the space in which people will gather. How will this space be prepared? Where will be the focus of people's attention? If people are praying before the sanctuary, the altar candles and any candles by the ambo are lit for this prayer. Will you make any particular set up changes in the church for this prayer? Consider the seating arrangement of all who gather and where the prayer leader will sit. Think about the lighting, heat and sound that might be needed.

#### b) The final text to be used

Again, consider the people who will gather for this prayer. In light of this, are you happy to go with the text as provided or do you need to make any amendments? For example, do you need to change any of the hymn suggestions?

#### c) Verbal elements

Think of the verbal elements of this prayer, for example, the opening and closing of the prayer time, the psalms and scripture, commentary / reflection, intercessions, invitation to pray the Lord's Prayer and the concluding prayer. When proclaiming texts to the assembly, for example, scripture, remember to actually look at the people as much as you can, rather than having your head buried in a text. Anyone leading these verbal elements should do so slowly and clearly.

Who will speak these different verbal elements? How many people do you need from the point of view of readers and prayer leader? How will you ensure that these people can be heard? Will someone source and read a reflection on the readings?

#### d) Non-verbal elements

Consider the non-verbal elements in the prayer, such as movement, posture (standing/ sitting), gesture (sign of the cross, bowing) and pace of the prayer. How might these non-verbal elements be carried out with reverence and grace? How will the use of silence be best utilised to enhance the prayer experience? How will you ensure that the silence will happen? Will the Lectionary be carried in at the

beginning? Will people be invited to reverence the Lectionary with a bow before the conclusion of the celebration?

e) Participation of the people & hospitality to them

What do you think will help people's participation in this prayer? How can you help to involve them in the prayer? How will they be welcomed and how will they have what they need in order to pray this prayer? Will it be clear in any welcome before the prayer that the prayer leaders are there on behalf of and in the name of the parish in this instance when your priest cannot be with you for the celebration of Mass, if this is the case?

Any instructions to people is better done before the prayer begins and not during. This can be done by someone other than the individual prayer leader assigned to the prayer. A vital part of hospitality requires that those preparing and leading prayer arrive in good time and have everything in place before people arrive for prayer!

f) Openings and closings

Think about how this prayer will begin and finish. How will the prayer leader take his/her place among people and how will they depart? Remember that it is worth taking those extra few seconds to settle in your place and be present in a space before beginning. A prayer leader might spend some moments seated in quiet prayer before standing to begin the prayer.

g) Assigning tasks

Having looked at this prayer and having made some decisions together, what ministers do you need to assign to it: prayer leader, readers, reflection, music, hospitality, set up (& putting away!), other? Begin to put names beside the tasks.

h) Final check

Have you everything in place that you need in order to pray this prayer next time you gather?

Is there any one that needs to be communicated with ahead of time, i.e. sacristan, parish secretary, key holder...?

Is everyone clear on what they have to do? Any clarification needed?

**CELEBRATION OF THE WORD**  
**PRAYER LEADER'S COPY**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020**  
**2ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME.**

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Stand**

*As the opening hymn is sung the Reader may carry the Lectionary in procession, ahead of the prayer leader. The Reader places the Lectionary on the ambo and then returns to where the prayer leader is standing, facing the altar.*

*The reader and prayer leader bow to the altar before moving to their places.*

*The prayer leader should be visible and audible to the congregation. The prayer leader uses a seat other than the priests chair.*

**Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Or Christ Be Near At Either Hand**

Christ be near at either hand,  
Christ behind, before me stand;  
Christ with me where 'er I go,  
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind,  
Christ within my soul enshrined;  
Christ control my wayward heart;  
Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way,  
Christ my lantern night and day;  
Christ be my unchanging friend,  
guide and shepherd to the end.

**GREETING**

**Leader:** *(While making the sign of the cross)*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Your word, O God, is a lamp for our steps.

**All: And a light for our path.**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Leader:** We gather here today as Church for a Celebration of the Word of God.

Christ is present with us as he promised: present in this assembly of his people and in the proclamation of God's Word.

It is most appropriate, then, that on this day when we cannot gather with our priest for the celebration of Mass, we gather for this Celebration of the Word.

We remember the belief of the Church that it is God who speaks to us whenever the Scriptures are proclaimed in church and we ready ourselves to welcome God's Word once more into our lives. *(pause)*

As we begin, let us hold Bishop Denis, our priests, our deacons, our parish and our diocese in prayer. *(pause)*

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

**All: For we have sinned against you.**

**Leader:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

**COLLECT**

**Leader:** Let us pray. *(Pause)*

**Leader:** Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**Sit**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Lectionary P 470 read by the parish reader who carried in the Lectionary.

**A Reading from the first book of Samuel - 15:16-23**

**Silence**

### PSALM

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 49: 8-9. 16-17. 21. 23**

I will show God's salvation to the upright.

**Silence**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Stand**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Accept God's message for what it really is:  
God's message, and not some human thinking.  
Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

*Read by a Reader, not the prayer leader.*

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark 2:18:22**

**Silence:**

*During this silence the congregation pray, ponder and reflect on the Word of God*

**Sit**

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

*Can be read by the prayer leader or another.*

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a real celebratory image to speak of himself and ministry. He is like the bridegroom at his wedding banquet, and his disciples are like those who attend the bridegroom. The presence of Jesus is a celebratory presence. As Jesus was with his first disciples then, so the risen Lord is with us now in the same celebratory way. There is no doubt that life can

be full of sorrow and distress for people, for any one of us at some time or other. The presence of the risen Lord does not spare us from the trials and tribulations of life which can bring us deep sorrow and grief. Yet the Lord's presence in itself is never to be a cause of sadness or gloom. In another gospel, the Gospel of John, Jesus says to his disciples, 'I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.' Even in the midst of life's sorrows and losses, Jesus wants us to experience something of his joy. This joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God's Love. It has its source in God's love for us, revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Regardless of what comes our way in life to cause us distress God's life-giving love for us is assured. Just as the love of God the Father brought Jesus through death into a new life, so it will always bring the light of life into our darkness.

### SUNG RESPONSE

**Stand**

**Be Still and know that I am God**

Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

**Or Be Still for the Presence of the Lord**

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire

With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Leader:** *(From their place)*

In trust and confidence, we ask God to look with favour once more on the needs of our community of faith.

**Reader:** *(From the ambo)*

We pray for all who help share the Word of God in our parish, for our parish team, readers, baptism team members, teachers and parents that their love of the Word may deepen and grow.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who have spoken God's Word to us in the past and who witnessed to that Word in all they did.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for Bishop Denis and the priests and deacons of the diocese. May they be blessed and strengthened in these days away.

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We pray for the many needs of the people of our parish, for those intentions named and unnamed.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the sick and the dying and all who care for them. May they know the healing embrace of the living Word of God.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all our faithful departed. May they find mercy with God and fullness of life in his presence.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

### PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE

**Leader:** Together we pray our Prayer for the Diocese...

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.

May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.

Bless its Bishop, priests, religious & laity.

Fill them with the light of your love.

Bless its young people.

Help them to seek your truth.

Bless all who are poor or weak

or wounded by life's hurts.

Grant them justice, light and hope.

Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna.

Amen.

### CONCLUDING RITE

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Leader:** With trust in our Father in heaven, we pray as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father...**

#### GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE LECTIONARY WITH CONCLUDING PRAYER

*The reader may go to the ambo and lift up the closed lectionary for the people to see it. Once the lectionary is held aloft the prayer leader prays the concluding prayer.*

**Leader:** May your words, O Lord, that we have shared this day, burn in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives, making us messengers of the Gospel and witnesses of your love to the world. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*At the end of the prayer the prayer leader and people bow towards the lectionary.*

*The reader then re-replaces the lectionary on the ambo and returns to his/her place.*

#### CLOSING VERSE

**Leader:** *(While making the Sign of the Cross)*

The Lord bless us ☩, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **Hail Queen of Heaven**

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star.  
Guide of the wand'rer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care.  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer.  
Pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
we sinners make our prayers thro' thee.  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
pray for the sinner.  
Oh, pray for me.

**Or**

### **Holy God, We Praise Thy Name**

Holy God, we praise Thy name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

*During the closing hymn, or at its conclusion, the prayer leader leaves his / her place, bows to the altar and returns to among the assembly or the sacristy.*

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD  
PRAYER LEADER'S COPY  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020  
2ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN

*Stand*

*As the opening hymn is sung the Reader may carry the Lectionary in procession, ahead of the prayer leader. The Reader places the Lectionary on the ambo and then returns to where the prayer leader is standing, facing the altar.*

*The reader and prayer leader bow to the altar before moving to their places.*

*The prayer leader should be visible and audible to the congregation. The prayer leader uses a seat other than the priests chair*

**Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Or Christ Be Near At Either Hand**

Christ be near at either hand,  
Christ behind, before me stand;  
Christ with me where 'er I go,  
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind,  
Christ within my soul enshrined;  
Christ control my wayward heart;  
Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way,  
Christ my lantern night and day;  
Christ be my unchanging friend,  
guide and shepherd to the end.

GREETING

**Leader:** *(While making the sign of the cross)*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Your word, O God, is a lamp for our steps.

**All: And a light for our path.**

INTRODUCTION

**Leader:** We gather here today as Church for a Celebration of the Word of God.

Christ is present with us as he promised:

present in this assembly of his people  
and in the proclamation of God's Word.

It is most appropriate, then, that on this day  
when we cannot gather with our priest for the  
celebration of Mass, we gather for this  
Celebration of the Word.

We remember the belief of the Church that it is  
God who speaks to us whenever the Scriptures  
are proclaimed in church and we ready  
ourselves to welcome God's Word once more  
into our lives. *(pause)*

As we begin, let us hold Bishop Denis, our  
priests, our deacons, our parish and our diocese  
in prayer. *(pause)*

PENITENTIAL ACT

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

**All: For we have sinned against you.**

**Leader:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

## COLLECT

**Leader:** Let us pray. (Pause)

Leader: Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*Sit*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Lectionary P 472 read by the parish reader who carried in the Lectionary.

*A Reading from the first book of Samuel - 16:1-13*

*Silence*

### PSALM

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 88:20-22.27-28  
*I have found David, my servant*

*Silence*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Stand*

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may consider the wonders of our law. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

*Read by a Reader, not the prayer leader.*

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 2:23-28**

*Silence:*

*During this silence the congregation pray, ponder and reflect on the Word of God*

*Sit*

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

*Can be read by the prayer leader or another.*

We are all familiar with sayings like, 'never judge a book by its cover', 'all that glitters is not gold'. Such sayings put into words a truth that people have picked up from long experience. We know that something can look good, but the reality may not measure up to the appearance. The

opposite, of course, can also be the case. What looks unimpressive can turn out to be of great quality. People can be in possession of treasures for many years without realising it. What is true of objects is also true of people; appearances can be deceptive. That comes across very clearly in today's first reading. When Samuel caught sight of Jesse's first son, he said, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there', but he was wrong. The son of Jesse whom the Lord had chosen was someone whom Jesse hadn't even considered it worth his while to bring to Samuel. As the reading expresses, it, 'God does not see what we see, we look at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart'. The Lord sees deeper than we do, and that is why his choices can seem so strange to us. It is because the Lord sees deeper than we do that we should leave judgement to the Lord as much as possible. We have to keep on suspending judgement, because our capacity for real insight into others is very limited. In the gospel reading, the Pharisees were judging Jesus' disciples because they were looking at appearances. Jesus, however, knew their hearts and did not hesitate to defend them before their critics. Because the Lord looks at the heart, it is important for us to get our hearts in the right place, to keep focusing our heart on the Lord and on his will for our lives.

### SUNG RESPONSE

*Stand*

**Be Still and know that I am God**

Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

**Or Be Still for the Presence of the Lord**

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found



We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Leader:** (From their place)

In trust and confidence, we ask God to look with favour once more on the needs of our community of faith.

**Reader:** (From the ambo)

We pray for all who help share the Word of God in our parish, for our parish team, readers, baptism team members, teachers, parents that their love of the Word may deepen and grow.  
Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who have spoken God's Word to us in the past and who witnessed to that Word in all they did.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for Bishop Denis and the priests of the diocese. May they be blessed and strengthened in these days away.

Lord, hear us.

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We pray for the many needs of the people of our parish, for those intentions named and unnamed.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the sick and the dying and all who care for them. May they know the healing embrace of the living Word of God.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all our faithful departed.  
May they find mercy with God  
and fullness of life in his presence.

Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

### PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE

**Leader:** Together we pray our Prayer for the Diocese...

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.

May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.

Bless its Bishop, priests, deacons, religious & laity.

Fill them with the light of your love.

Bless its young people.

Help them to seek your truth.

Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by life's hurts.

Grant them justice, light and hope.

Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna.

Amen.

### CONCLUDING RITE

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Leader:** With trust in our Father in heaven, we pray as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father...**

#### GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE LECTIONARY WITH CONCLUDING PRAYER

*The reader may go to the ambo and lift up the closed lectionary for the people to see it. Once the lectionary is held aloft the prayer leader prays the concluding prayer.*

**Leader:** May your words, O Lord, that we have shared this day, burn in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives, making us messengers of the Gospel and witnesses of your love to the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*At the end of the prayer the prayer leader and people bow towards the lectionary.*

*The reader then re-replaces the lectionary on the ambo and returns to his/her place.*

## CLOSING VERSE

**Leader:** *(While making the Sign of the Cross)*

The Lord bless us ☩, and keep us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

**Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star.  
Guide of the wand'rer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care.  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer.  
Pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
we sinners make our prayers thro' thee.  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
pray for the sinner.  
Oh, pray for me.

**Or**

### Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, we praise Thy name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

*During the closing hymn, or at its conclusion, the prayer leader leaves his / her place, bows to the altar and returns to among the assembly or the sacristy.*

**CELEBRATION OF THE WORD**  
**PRAYER LEADER'S COPY**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020**  
**2ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME.**

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Stand**

*As the opening hymn is sung the Reader may carry the Lectionary in procession, ahead of the prayer leader. The Reader places the Lectionary on the ambo and then returns to where the prayer leader is standing, facing the altar.*

*The reader and prayer leader bow to the altar before moving to their places.*

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**Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Or Christ Be Near At Either Hand**

Christ be near at either hand,  
Christ behind, before me stand;  
Christ with me where 'er I go,  
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind,  
Christ within my soul enshrined;  
Christ control my wayward heart;  
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Christ my life and only way,  
Christ my lantern night and day;  
Christ be my unchanging friend,  
guide and shepherd to the end.

**GREETING**

**Leader:** *(While making the sign of the cross)*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Your word, O God, is a lamp for our steps.

**All: And a light for our path.**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Leader:** We gather here today as Church for a Celebration of the Word of God.

Christ is present with us as he promised:

present in this assembly of his people

and in the proclamation of God's Word.

It is most appropriate, then, that on this day when we cannot gather with our priest for the celebration of Mass, we gather for this Celebration of the Word.

We remember the belief of the Church that it is God who speaks to us whenever the Scriptures are proclaimed in church and we ready ourselves to welcome God's Word once more into our lives. *(pause)*

As we begin, let us hold Bishop Denis, our priests, our deacons, our parish and our diocese in prayer. *(pause)*

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

**All: For we have sinned against you.**

**Leader:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

## COLLECT

**Leader:** Let us pray. (Pause)

**Leader:** Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**All: Amen.**

*Sit*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Lectionary P 475 read by the parish reader who carried in the Lectionary.

**A Reading from the first book of Samuel**  
17:32-33.37.40-51

**Silence**

### PSALM

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm** 143:1-2.9-10  
*Blessed be the Lord, my rock.*

**Silence**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Stand*

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**The word of God is something alive and active; it can judge secret emotions and thoughts.**  
**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

*Read by a Reader, not the prayer leader.*

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark** 3:1-6

**Silence:**

*During this silence the congregation pray, ponder and reflect on the Word of God*

*Sit*

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

*Can be read by the prayer leader or another.*

Mark's Gospel give us the most human portrait of Jesus. Mark, more than the other evangelists, often attributes emotions to Jesus. In today's gospel reading he makes reference to Jesus' grief and anger. 'Grieved to find them so obstinate, he looked angrily round at them'.

Jesus was grieved that the religious authorities were so opposed to his work of healing a man on the Sabbath. His grief, as is often the case with human grief, is mixed with anger. The evangelist is portraying Jesus as being in a highly emotional state. We know from our own experience that strong emotions like grief and anger can easily control us and take us over. Jesus was able to channel these strong emotions in a life-giving way. The energies of these emotions in his life became energies for the furthering of God's kingdom. He went on to heal the man with the withered hand. We can sometimes make a very negative judgement about the strong emotions that we experience within us. Such feelings in themselves are not something negative; it is how we channel them that matters. Like Jesus, we are called to channel our strong emotions in ways that serve God's purpose for our lives and for the lives of others. Grace builds on nature and grace can transform all our emotional energies into sources of life and well-being for all who cross our path in life. The Spirit can direct all our emotional energies towards the doing of God's work.

### SUNG RESPONSE

*Stand*

#### **Be Still and know that I am God**

Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

#### **Or Be Still for the Presence of the Lord**

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
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### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Leader:** (From their place)

In trust and confidence, we ask God to look with favour once more on the needs of our community of faith.

**Reader:** (From the ambo)

We pray for all who help share the Word of God in our parish, for our parish team, readers, baptism team members, teachers, parents that their love of the Word may deepen and grow.  
Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

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We pray for Bishop Denis and the priests of the diocese. May they be blessed and strengthened in these days away.  
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We pray for the many needs of the people of our parish, for those intentions named and unnamed.  
Lord, hear us.

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the sick and the dying and all who care for them. May they know the healing embrace of the living Word of God.  
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### PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE

**Leader:** Together we pray our Prayer for the Diocese...

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.

May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.

Bless its Bishop, priests, deacons, religious & laity.

Fill them with the light of your love.

Bless its young people.

Help them to seek your truth.

Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by life's hurts.

Grant them justice, light and hope.

Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna.

Amen.

### CONCLUDING RITE

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Leader:** With trust in our Father in heaven, we pray as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father...**

#### GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE LECTIONARY WITH CONCLUDING PRAYER

*The reader may go to the ambo and lift up the closed lectionary for the people to see it. Once the lectionary is held aloft the prayer leader prays the concluding prayer.*

**Leader:** May your words, O Lord, that we have shared this day, burn in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives, making us messengers of the Gospel and witnesses of your love to the world. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*At the end of the prayer the prayer leader and people bow towards the lectionary.*

*The reader then re-replaces the lectionary on the ambo and returns to his/her place.*

## CLOSING VERSE

**Leader:** *(While making the Sign of the Cross)*

The Lord bless us ☩, and keep us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life. **All: Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

**Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star.  
Guide of the wand'rer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care.  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer. Pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
we sinners make our prayers thro' thee.  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
pray for the sinner.  
Oh, pray for me.

**Or**

### Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, we praise Thy name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

*During the closing hymn, or at its conclusion, the prayer leader leaves his / her place, bows to the altar and returns to among the assembly or the sacristy.*

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD  
PEOPLE'S COPY  
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020  
2ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN

*Stand*

**Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Or Christ Be Near At Either Hand**

Christ be near at either hand,  
Christ behind, before me stand;  
Christ with me where 'er I go,  
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind,  
Christ within my soul enshrined;  
Christ control my wayward heart;  
Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way,  
Christ my lantern night and day;  
Christ be my unchanging friend,  
guide and shepherd to the end.

GREETING

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Your word, O God, is a lamp for our steps.

**All: And a light for our path.**

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

PENITENTIAL ACT

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

**All: For we have sinned against you.**

**Leader:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

COLLECT

*Sit*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*A Reading from the first book of Samuel - 15:16-23*

*Silence*

PSALM

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 49: 8-9. 16-17. 21. 23**

I will show God's salvation to the upright.

*Silence*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Stand*

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Accept God's message for what it really is:**

**God's message, and not some human thinking.**

**Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 2:18:22**

*Silence:*

*Sit*

*During this silence the congregation pray, ponder and reflect on the Word of God*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

SUNG RESPONSE

*Stand*

**Be Still and know that I am God**

Be Still and know that I am God

Be Still and know that I am God

Be Still and know that I am God

I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

**Or Be Still for the Presence of the Lord**

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE**

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian. May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin. Bless its Bishop, priests, religious & laity. Fill them with the light of your love. Bless its young people. Help them to seek your truth. Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by life's hurts. Grant them justice, light and hope. Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna. Amen.

**CONCLUDING RITE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE LECTIONARY WITH CONCLUDING PRAYER**

**Leader:** May your words, O Lord, that we have shared this day, burn in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives, making us messengers of the Gospel and witnesses of your love to the world. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**CLOSING VERSE**

**Leader:** The Lord bless us ☩, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**Hail Queen of Heaven**

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star.  
Guide of the wand'rer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care.  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer. Pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
we sinners make our prayers thro' thee.  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
pray for the sinner. Oh, pray for me.

**Or**

**Holy God, We Praise Thy Name**

Holy God, we praise Thy name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.



CELEBRATION OF THE WORD  
PRAYER LEADER'S COPY  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020  
2ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN

*Stand*

**Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Or Christ Be Near At Either Hand**

Christ be near at either hand,  
Christ behind, before me stand;  
Christ with me where 'er I go,  
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind,  
Christ within my soul enshrined;  
Christ control my wayward heart;  
Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way,  
Christ my lantern night and day;  
Christ be my unchanging friend,  
guide and shepherd to the end.

GREETING

**Leader:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of  
the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Your word, O God, is a lamp for our  
steps.

**All: And a light for our path.**

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

PENITENTIAL ACT

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

**All: For we have sinned against you.**

**Leader:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

COLLECT

*Sit*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*A Reading from the first book of Samuel - 16:1-13*

*Silence*

PSALM

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 88:20-22.27-28**

*I have found David, my servant*

*Silence*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Stand*

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may consider  
the wonders of our law. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark 2:23-28**

*Silence:*

*During this silence the congregation pray, ponder  
and reflect on the Word of God*

*Sit*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

## SUNG RESPONSE

*Stand*

### Be Still and know that I am God

Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
Be Still and know that I am God  
    I am the Lord that health thee  
    I am the Lord that health thee  
    I am the Lord that health thee  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

### **Or** Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

### PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.  
May it be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare, may it be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell, wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.  
Bless its Bishop, priests, deacons, religious & laity. Fill them with the light of your love.  
Bless its young people.  
Help them to seek your truth.  
Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by life's hurts.  
Grant them justice, light and hope.  
Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna. Amen.

## CONCLUDING RITE

### LORD'S PRAYER

#### GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE LECTIONARY WITH CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Leader:** May your words, O Lord, that we have shared this day, burn in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives, making us messengers of the Gospel and witnesses of your love to the world. Through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

### CLOSING VERSE

**Leader:** The Lord bless us ☩, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

**Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

### CLOSING HYMN

#### Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star.  
Guide of the wand'rer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care.  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer. Pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
we sinners make our prayers thro' thee.  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
pray for the sinner. Oh, pray for me.

**Or**

#### Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, we praise Thy name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD  
PRAYER LEADER'S COPY  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020  
2ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN

Stand

**Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Or Christ Be Near At Either Hand**

Christ be near at either hand,  
Christ behind, before me stand;  
Christ with me where 'er I go,  
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my heart and mind,  
Christ within my soul enshrined;  
Christ control my wayward heart;  
Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way,  
Christ my lantern night and day;  
Christ be my unchanging friend,  
guide and shepherd to the end.

GREETING

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Your word, O God, is a lamp for our steps.

**All: And a light for our path.**

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

PENITENTIAL ACT

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

**All: For we have sinned against you.**

**Leader:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

COLLECT

Sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*A Reading from the first book of Samuel*

17:32-33.37.40-51

*Silence*

PSALM

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm**

143:1-2.9-10

*Blessed be the Lord, my rock.*

*Silence*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**The word of God is something alive and active;  
it can judge secret emotions and thoughts.**

**Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to**

**Mark**

3:1-6

*Silence:*

*During this silence the congregation pray, ponder  
and reflect on the Word of God*

Sit

GOSPEL REFLECTION

SUNG RESPONSE

Stand

**Be Still and know that I am God**

Be Still and know that I am God

Be Still and know that I am God

Be Still and know that I am God

I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
I am the Lord that health thee  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

**Or Be Still for the Presence of the Lord**

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE**

Lord, bless the faith community of Kildare & Leighlin which traces its origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.  
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Bless its young people.  
Help them to seek your truth.  
Bless all who are poor or weak or wounded by life's hurts.  
Grant them justice, light and hope.  
Sin é ár nguí tré Críost ár dTiarna.  
Amen.

**CONCLUDING RITE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**GESTURE OF REVERENCE TO THE LECTIONARY WITH CONCLUDING PRAYER**

**Leader:** May your words, O Lord, that we have shared this day, burn in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives, making us messengers of the Gospel and witnesses of your love to the world. Through Christ our Lord.  
**All: Amen.**

**CLOSING VERSE**

**Leader:** The Lord bless us ☩, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **All: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**Hail Queen of Heaven**

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star.  
Guide of the wand'rer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care.  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer. Pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
we sinners make our prayers thro' thee.  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
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**Or**

**Holy God, We Praise Thy Name**

Holy God, we praise Thy name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

## **Gospel Reflections for use 20, 21 & 22 January 2020**

*These reflections are taken from Martin Hogan, 'The Word of God is Living and Active' Reflections on the weekday readings for the liturgical year 2019-2020, (Messenger Publications 2019) €14.95*

**Fr Martin has very kindly given us permission to share these reflections in this resource.**

### **Gospel Reflection: Monday January 20, Second Week in Ordinary Time**

#### **Mark 2:18-22**

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a real celebratory image to speak of himself and ministry. He is like the bridegroom at his wedding banquet, and his disciples are like those who attend the bridegroom. The presence of Jesus is a celebratory presence. As Jesus was with his first disciples then, so the risen Lord is with us now in the same celebratory way. There is no doubt that life can be full of sorrow and distress for people, for any one of us at some time or other. The presence of the risen Lord does not spare us from the trials and tribulations of life which can bring us deep sorrow and grief. Yet the Lord's presence in itself is never to be a cause of sadness or gloom. In another gospel, the Gospel of John, Jesus says to his disciples, 'I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.' Even in the midst of life's sorrows and losses, Jesus wants us to experience something of his joy. This joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God's Love. It has its source in God's love for us, revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Regardless of what comes our way in life to cause us distress God's life-giving love for us is assured. Just as the love of God the Father brought Jesus through death into a new life, so it will always bring the light of life into our darkness.

### **Gospel Reflection: Tuesday January 21, Second Week in Ordinary Time**

#### **Mark 2:23-28**

We are all familiar with sayings like, 'never judge a book by its cover', 'all that glitters is not gold'. Such sayings put into words a truth that people have picked up from long experience. We know that something can look good, but the reality may not measure up to the appearance. The opposite, of course, can also be the case. What looks unimpressive can turn out to be of great quality. People can be in possession of treasures for many years without realising it. What is true of objects is also true of people; appearances can be deceptive. That comes across very clearly in today's first reading. When Samuel caught sight of Jesse's first son, he said, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there', but he was wrong. The son of Jesse whom the Lord had chosen was someone whom Jesse hadn't even considered it worth his while to bring to Samuel. As the reading expresses, it, 'God does not see what we see, we look at

appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart'. The Lord sees deeper than we do, and that is why his choices can seem so strange to us. It is because the Lord sees deeper than we do that we should leave judgement to the Lord as much as possible. We have to keep on suspending judgement, because our capacity for real insight into others is very limited. In the gospel reading, the Pharisees were judging Jesus' disciples because they were looking at appearances. Jesus, however, knew their hearts and did not hesitate to defend them before their critics. Because the Lord looks at the heart, it is important for us to get our hearts in the right place, to keep focusing our heart on the Lord and on his will for our lives.

***Gospel Reflection: Wednesday January 22, Second Week in Ordinary Time***

***Mark 3:1-6***

Mark's Gospel give us the most human portrait of Jesus. Mark, more than the other evangelists, often attributes emotions to Jesus. In today's gospel reading he makes reference to Jesus' grief and anger. 'Grieved to find them so obstinate, he looked angrily round at them'. Jesus was grieved that the religious authorities were so opposed to his work of healing a man on the Sabbath. His grief, as is often the case with human grief, is mixed with anger. The evangelist is portraying Jesus as being in a highly emotional state. We know from our own experience that strong emotions like grief and anger can easily control us and take us over. Jesus was able to channel these strong emotions in a life-giving way. The energies of these emotions in his life became energies for the furthering of God's kingdom. He went on to heal the man with the withered hand. We can sometimes make a very negative judgement about the strong emotions that we experience within us. Such feelings in themselves are not something negative; it is how we channel them that matters. Like Jesus, we are called to channel our strong emotions in ways that serve God's purpose for our lives and for the lives of others. Grace builds on nature and grace can transform all our emotional energies into sources of life and well-being for all who cross our path in life. The Spirit can direct all our emotional energies towards the doing of God's work.