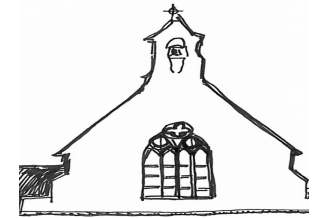


# Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha 21.5

## Fourth Week of Ordinary Time (January 31 February 6, 2021)



**Third Sunday of the Year:** *The Lord, our teacher – Who or what can we really trust? People are looking for a teaching that is true, that will stand the test of time and that will guide people along path of righteousness (not up the garden path). In Christ and the Gospel we have found that teacher and teaching.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** If we are to speak for God then we must be good listeners. The first step to wisdom: listen!

**Psalms 94:** *The Lord is our rock; may we harden not our hearts but listen*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** St Paul believed in an imminent *Parousia* (second coming of the Lord). That is why he believed that it was acceptable to remain single. Because the Day of the Lord was so near, he did not think that marriage was worth people's time! Nowadays we recognise that marriage is one of the most wonderful ways of witnessing to God's love in the world. Today's reading reminds us that some still choose to devote themselves completely to God by becoming religious or priests. They dedicate themselves to the Lord with "an undivided heart."

**Gospel:** Jesus combines the roles of Teacher and Healer. His words of authority are backed up by tremendous deeds. As Christians, may our actions always reflect our beliefs and so help bring about God's kingdom.

**Fallen asleep in the Lord:** *Anniversaries:* Kevin Linehan.

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**Level 5 Restrictions have been imposed on Church activities**, with a reopening not expected until March 6. In the meantime, Mass will continue to be offered privately for your intentions each day. Churches remain open for personal visits, but group worship is only permitted for Baptisms (immediate family only); Weddings (6 guests) and Funerals (ten mourners only).

When making a private or household visit to the church, please sanitize your hands on entering and exiting the building and wear a face mask at all times.

**Mass is broadcast** live every day at RTE NewsNow TV at 10.30am. On every other Sunday it is found on RTE NewsNow at 2.15pm. The readings of the day are found at the parish website: [www.killavullenparish.ie](http://www.killavullenparish.ie)

**Sincere thanks** to all who have kept up their contributions to the parish in this time of restricted activity for the Church. Weekly Offerings and donations to the Buildings Fund can be given at the Parish Office.

**BonMot:** *If you do what you've always done,  
you'll get what you've always gotten.*

**Parish Pastoral Council:** If you are self-isolating and need help with picking up your shopping, a friendly phone-call, posting mail or supplies, then call the parish office (022-46578) and a local member of the pastoral council will contact you to assist.

**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People** - ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024 – for the price of a local phone-call.

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**This Monday (February 1) we celebrate the Feast of St Brigid**, one of our national patron saints. We call on her intercession in this time of pandemic. St Brigid's Day coincides with the Celtic festival of Imbolc, the first day of Spring. Though meteorologists always dispute this assertion, there is no denying the lengthening days and the very early signs of new life these days.

Brigid was reputedly born in 450AD, at Faughart, County Louth, the daughter of a petty chieftain, Dubhthach. Her mother, Brocca, was said to have been baptised by St Patrick. She was a generous child, giving away her father's supply of butter to the poor, much to his annoyance. But the Lord duly compensated the family by miraculously increasing the milk-yield of their cows. It was also against her father's will that Brigid became a nun.

She went on to evangelise (bring the Gospel) to the central plain of Ireland, especially Kildare, which became home to her most important foundation, a "double monastery" made up of both nuns and monks. She is said to have passed from this life on February 1, 525. Her spread throughout Europe in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. There are nineteen ancient English churches named after our secondary patron, including St Bride's in London. Her mantle (cloak) is preserved at Bruges in Belgium.

**Brat Bhride / Brigid's mantle:** Leave a piece of cloth on a hedge tonight (January 31); take it in on St Brigid's day. Place it in the sacred space of your house over the year ahead as a sign of Bridget's intercession on our behalf. *Faoi choimirce Bhride go raibh tú – may you be under Brigid's protection.* (gc) *please take this bulletin home.*