

GOSPEL LUKE 4:21-30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'

But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."'

And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.'

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.



GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES IN THE CATHEDRAL AS AND FROM 1ST FEBRUARY 2022.

- ◆ The ribbons on the seats will be removed on Monday 31st January. Those attending ceremonies are respectfully requested to continue to exercise courtesy and respect by continuing to wear a face covering in the Cathedral, to sanitise hands when entering and leaving the Cathedral. Please be respectful of each other's space in the seating arrangements.
- ◆ Confessions will continue to be heard in the side porch of the Cathedral on Saturdays.
- ◆ People receiving Holy Communion are asked to receive on the hand only.
- ◆ There will be no sign of peace.
- ◆ Holy water will only be available to take home from the large silver container between the Holy Family Altar and Our Lady's Altar.
- ◆ From the 1st March, we will revert to the original arrangement for Baptism with a maximum of 3 children for Baptism at 2pm on Saturday or 2pm on Sunday only.

OPPOSITION IS A NECESSITY WHEN TRUTH IS INVOLVED.

The Liturgy of the word present us with two people who were faithful to their mission: Jeremiah and our Lord Jesus, two prophets who face similar situations and who had to announce unwelcome truths to their listeners. Jeremiah is encouraged by God in the first reading to remain strong despite the opposition he will have to face.

The Gospel describes the painful and humiliating rejection that Jesus suffers from his own people, who would not accept him or his message.

The second reading describes the charism of love which can be linked to the theme of this Sunday because the Christian is the prophet of love, and for this love, risks persecution.

Truth can be bitter but truth must be spoken. Yes, there are rewards and there are other consequence of speaking the truth.

The fact is that everyone craves for acceptance but one possible consequence of upholding the truth is rejection. Jeremiah and our Lord Jesus surely would have loved the people of their time to accept the message of truth (God) that they proclaimed but had to face rejection for proclaiming the truth. There is no gain saying that the world today prefers lies or falsehood than truth, forgetful that God's word is a double- edge sword.

We must therefore stand up and speak out for truth, justice and right. As Christians, we cannot but speak the truth always, for God is truth. Going the other way would mean that we prefer to follow the devil, the father of lies'. Oh yes they will war against you for proclaiming and living the life of Christ but will never prevail against you because the Lord has made you 'a pillar of iron, a fortified city, a wall of brass'. Therefore may our daily life be to know the truth and speak the truth so that the truth can set us free.

Monday, 31st January. St. John Bosco
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: Special Intention

Tuesday, 1st February. Feast of St. Brigid, Abbess
8.00am: Special Intention
10.00am: Ciaran McDonnell (Month's Mind)
7.30pm: Mass of St Brigid.

Wednesday, 2nd February. The Presentation of the Lord
8.00am: Special Intention - *Blessing of Candles*
10.00am: Colin Brady (1st A) - *Blessing of Candles*

Thursday, 3rd February. St Blaise
8.00am: Holy Souls - *Blessing of Throats*
10.00am: Olga Makulova (Special Intention) - *Blessing of Throats*
7.30pm Curry: No Intention

Friday, 4th February. First Friday
8.00am: No Intention 10.00am: Winnie Stokes (A)
7.30pm: James, Bridget and Sadie Galligan (A)

Saturday, 5th Saturday February. St. Agatha
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: No Intention

Sunday, 6th February. Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7.30pm (Vigil): Frank O'Reilly (Month's Mind)
8.00am: Christy Newman (A)
10.00am: Deceased members of the Donlon family
11.30am: *Shared:* Elizabeth Flynn (A).
 Ellen and John Masterson (A).
 Patrick Earley (A).
1.00pm: Frank, Anita and Vicky McKiernan (A).
6.00pm: Ann Hayes (A)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection for last weekend was €3,970.00.

BAPTISM: With joy, we welcomed Ameila Makulova and Finn Jack Connolly into the Christian Community last weekend.

MASS IN ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, CURRY: Mass will be celebrated in St. Anne's Church, Curry on Thursday evening at 7.30pm.

TUESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM FEAST OF ST BRIGID as we emerge from Covid we offer a Special Mass of Thanksgiving and Hope in honour of St. Brigid.

WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY, FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD OR CANDLE-MASS DAY. Candles will be blessed in the Cathedral at Masses on Wednesday morning. Please leave your candles with your name on them on the table in the sanctuary.

THURSDAY 3RD FEBRUARY IS THE MEMORIAL OF ST BLAISE. Priests will bless throats after the 8am and 10am Mass on Thursday.

FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY IS THE 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH. Priests will bring Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound.

SATURDAY WEEK, 12TH FEBRUARY WE WILL OFFER THE BLESSING OF THE SICK to all who would like to receive it at the 10am Mass as we honour Our Lady of Lourdes.

ST. LOMAN'S MULLINGAR ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE will be held next Sunday, 6th February at 10:30am in St. Paul's Church, Delvin Road, Mullingar, in memory of deceased patients and staff and people buried in St. Loman's Hospital Cemetery from 1907 to 1970. Mass will be livestreamed on www.mullingarparish.ie

CONFIRMATION DATES FOR 2022

Monday 23rd May at 6pm	St. Michael's N.S.
Tuesday 24th May at 6pm	St. Eimear's N.S.
Wednesday 25th May at 6pm	Gaelscoil Longfoirt
Thursday 26th May at 6pm	Melview N.S.
Tuesday 31st May at 6pm	Stonepark N.S.
Wednesday 1st June at 6pm	St. Joseph's N.S.