



# NEWSLETTER

15 JAN. 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

## ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Paddy Loran.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11.30am. Sean Gaynor MM. Dec.d members of the Mallon family.

## ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am Oliver Lynam.

~~Weekday Masses; Thurs Raharney 9am. Wed & Fri Rathwire 9am.~~

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.

& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:

Special Diocesan intention of prayer  
for vocations and the family.

Take one Hour with the Lord

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €435  
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €495

Joe Reid, Joristown. Funeral Monday 11am.

**Cúpla Focail Group:** meet this Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> in Killucan GAA hall after 11.30am Mass. All welcome.

## The Sin of the World

In today's [Gospel](#), John sees Jesus and exclaims: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" He doesn't say "the sins of the world;" he uses the singular: "the sin of the world" (*peccatum* in Latin, *ten hamarten* in Greek).

We all sin, and we sin in different ways and at different times. We can speak of "sins" (in the plural), but all our sins are of a piece: they are different manifestations of our sinfulness. The liturgy alternates between these two perspectives, acknowledging that "you take away the sin of the world" (Glory to God) and also that "you take away the sins of the world" (Lamb of God). The recently developed concept of social sin is an attempt to articulate the sinfulness of humankind. It isn't just that we do wrong things: the fact is that we are basically "off center." It is our "original" sin that matters most, our fundamental option for ourselves over and above God. The rest is expression, like coloring the picture or connecting the dots.

The wonder of Jesus is that he takes away not only the sins but also the sin. He fills us with the Spirit of sinlessness, who will "make us one in peace and love."

The disturbances which so frequently occur in the social order result in part from the natural tensions of economic, political, and social forms. But at a deeper level they flow from man's pride and selfishness, which contaminate even the social sphere.

Vatican II, [Constitution on the Church in the Modern World](#)

# Sunday Message

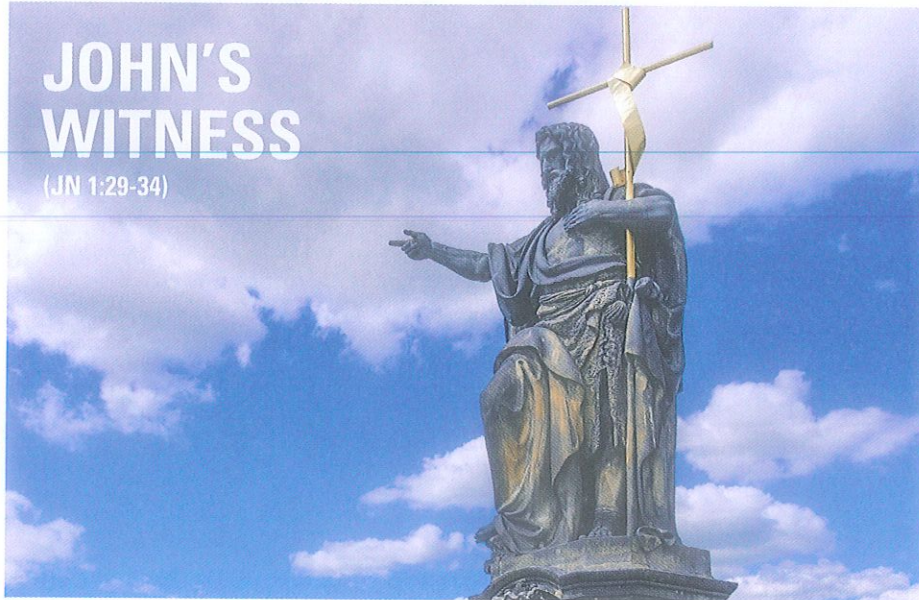
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year A • 15 January 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

### JOHN'S WITNESS

(JN 1:29-34)



Statue of St John the Baptist, on Charles Bridge, Prague

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist adopts the role of witness on behalf of Jesus. He points toward Jesus and offers powerful evidence of why he is convinced Jesus is the Messiah. He wants to persuade anyone who will listen that Jesus is indeed the one they have been waiting for, the one they should follow.

First, he says that Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This language is probably inspired by the language of sacrifice in the Temple. Two lambs were sacrificed in the Temple in Jerusalem each day, one in the morning and one in the evening. Individuals also offered a lamb in sacrifice if they needed to perform a rite to regain their ritual purity on certain occasions. The most important offering of a lamb took place at Passover. Then the animal's blood was used to mark the house while the flesh was eaten at the Passover meal. The Gospel writer draws many parallels between the death of Jesus and the paschal lamb. Jesus dies close to evening time when the lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple. The soldiers do not break the bones of his legs to hasten death: it was forbidden to break any of the bones of the paschal lamb while it was being prepared. Instead, the soldier pierces his side causing blood and water to flow out. St Paul also calls Jesus the Passover lamb that has been sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7).

The second important thing John the Baptist says about Jesus is that it was revealed to him that this young man from Galilee was the one about whom he was preaching, even though he did not know him beforehand. Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah.

The third thing he says about Jesus is that he will baptise, not with water, but with the Holy Spirit. This means that Jesus will plunge us quite literally into the depths of God's life just as surely as John plunged those who came looking for baptism into the waters of the Jordan. Plunging a person into the depths of God is not merely something on the outside. It opens them to a new depth of relationship with God, to receive God's own life. Later in John's Gospel, Jesus will express that in simple language when he says that he came that we might have life and have it to the full (John 10:10).

As Christians, we also are called to point to Jesus, to offer evidence on his behalf. We do this not only by what we say but also by the kind of people we are. ■

### PRAY

This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Traditionally, it runs from 18-25 January. Give thanks to God for the many beliefs Christians from the mainstream churches hold in common. Pray for deeper unity between all Christians.



### REFLECT

Last year, one of the most talked-about media and social media events was the court showdown between actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. It was broadcast live on American court TV, and its proceedings were followed assiduously by millions.

At the same time, on this side of the Atlantic, one of the biggest media and social media events was the London libel trial featuring football WAGs Coleen Rooney and Rebekah Vardy.

It's no surprise that these confrontations were such major media events, because both involved celebrities and courtroom dramas. Most of us love anything to do with courts and courtrooms. From Judge Judy to Atticus Finch to *12 Angry Men* to anything by John Grisham, we love legal dramas.

Today's Gospel has strong echoes of a legal drama, with John the Baptist playing the role of chief witness for Jesus. He points to Jesus and identifies who Jesus is: the Lamb of God, the Chosen One of God. He witnesses to Jesus publicly and on the record.

We probably won't be called upon to witness to Jesus in a court of law (hopefully, we'll never have to appear in a court of law), but we are called to witness to Jesus as Christians. We are called to testify on his behalf. We do so by the kind of people we are, the values we hold, and the concrete actions we take every single day. ■

### SAY

**"Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us."**

### DO

Be a witness for Christ this week. Speak to someone about what your faith means to you.

### LEARN

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist describes Jesus as the Chosen One of God. Each one of us is a chosen one of God. God has created us in God's image and likeness and has shaped us after himself. We are special in God's eyes.