

Kieran of Seirkeiran

Ossory diocese, circa 545
5th March

The Gathering of God's People

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

THE GREETING

My soul's desire is to see the face of God, and to rest in his house.

SENTENCE

St Columba

INTRODUCTION

Kieran or Ciaran was both bishop and monk. Born in West Cork, but from an Ossory family, he appears to have travelled to Europe where he was ordained. On his return to Ireland he settled at Seir (*Saighir*) near Birr, first as a hermit and then as abbot of a large monastery there. He also had a hermitage on the island of Cape Clear, off West Cork. Fascinating tales of his life surrounded by the animals of his neighbouring woods have often been re-told.

OPENING PRAYER

Kindle in our hearts, O God,
the flame of love that never ceases,
that it may burn in us, giving light to others.
May we shine for ever in your temple,
set on fire with your eternal light,
even your Son Jesus Christ,
our saviour and redeemer. **Amen.**

St Columba

PENITENCE

Lord Jesus,
you call by name those who are yours:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you lead us in the right paths for your name's sake:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus,
you are the door of the sheepfold;
those who enter by you will be saved:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
Grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 49: 8-10

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favour I have answered you, in a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, 'Come forth,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways, on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall smite them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM
Psalm 103: 8-17

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

He will not always accuse us,
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. *℟*

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us. *℟*

THE SECOND READING
Ephesians 3: 14-end

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations for ever and ever. Amen.

This the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**
Make Disciples of the nations:
baptizing and teaching them as I have commanded you. *Mt 28: 19,20.*
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL READING
John 10: 11-16

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ,
according to St. John, chapter 10, beginning at verse 11.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock and one shepherd.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Prayers of the People

We remember on this day two dioceses, Ossory and Killaloe. Each has a share in the life and history of Seirkeiran. We pray for Europe as well as this land, for peace and understanding among the nations, for the European Union and the part played in it by our country. We pray for those who work for the conservation of the countryside and its wildlife.

Lord God, maker of all things wise and wonderful,
all creatures great and small:

We recall with thanksgiving your servant, Keiran,
who lived close to your creation.

Make us mindful of our responsibility for the good earth
in which you have placed us,
and guide us to preserve that which you have given
for the well-being of the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

Peace be to you, and peace to your house,
and peace to all who are yours. *1 Samuel 25: 6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Receive, Lord, we pray,
the offerings which we make to you
of what you have given us,
so that by the power of your grace
these holy mysteries may sanctify our present life
and bring us to everlasting joys. **Amen.**

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The priest takes the bread and cup

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us
therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 3

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, Lord of all creation,
we praise you for your goodness and your love.
When we turned away you did not reject us.
You came to meet us in your Son,
welcomed us as your children
and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
He opened wide his arms upon the cross
and, with love stronger than death,
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Lord Jesus Christ our redeemer,
on the night before you died
you came to table with your friends.
Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it
and gave it to them saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper
you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the true vine.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life,
come upon us now;
may this bread and wine be to us
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us, who know our need of grace,
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:
with your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise
and lift our voice to join the song of heaven,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words
Amen. Amen. Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

They recognized the Lord, Alleluia;
in the breaking of the loaf, Alleluia;

For the loaf that we break is the body
of our Lord Jesus Christ, Alleluia;
**The cup which we bless is the blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ, Alleluia
for the remission of our sins. Alleluia;**

O Lord, let your mercy come upon us, Alleluia;
in you O Lord have I put my trust. Alleluia.

They recognized the Lord, Alleluia;
in the breaking of the loaf, Alleluia.

Lk 24:35 1 Cor 10:16-17; Mt 26:28 Ps 31:1 Stowe (9th c)

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

or

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God,
who has taken away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

THE COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

THE GREAT SILENCE

Going out as God's People

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God, shepherd of your people,
whose servant Kieran revealed the loving service of Christ
in his ministry as a pastor of your people;
by this eucharist in which we share
awaken within us the love of Christ
and keep us faithful to our Christian calling:
through him who laid down his life for us,
but is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

DISMISSAL
The Blessing

Christ the good shepherd,
who laid down his life for the sheep,
draw you and all who hear his voice,
to be one flock within one fold;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.