

of the Bible. It occurred at the beginning of the 6th century BC. In early 597, Nebuchadnezzar, the King of the Babylonian Empire which had superseded that of Assyria, invaded Judah, and after a siege of 3 months captured Jerusalem (2 Kgs 24:10-17). King Jehoiachin, with his family, court officials, metal workers and men capable of bearing arms were led into exile in Babylon. The number is thought to have been between 8 and 10 thousand. Nebuchadnezzar then ransacked the Temple and the palace of their treasures, but left the city relatively intact. He appointed Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, as king. In 589, Zedekiah formed an alliance with Hophra (Pharaoh of Egypt) and rebelled against Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem a second time, and took it in 587. Zedekiah was led away with about 832 deportees. The city, with its Temple and walls, was destroyed, and the Kingdom of Judah became part of the Babylonian province of Samaria. The land was also plundered by its neighbours – the Edomites to the south-east and the Ammonites to the west. However there was no importation of foreigners as happened after the fall of Northern Kingdom in 721.

### Life in Babylon

Not all of the exiles to Babylon were enslaved: some even began to play an active part in the life and economy of their new homeland. They adapted to their new situation and to the religious practices of their neighbours, and so "circumcision and sabbath observance became their source of identity" (New Jerome Biblical Commentary).

### A Glimmer of Hope

The prophet Jeremiah – who had been a severe critic of the monarchy and the Temple cult before the exile had predicted the deportations, but now he became a prophet of hope. He saw the exile as a remedial period, and predicted that the Lord would restore, not only those deported to Babylon, but also the exiles of the northern kingdom (Jer 30-33). A New Covenant would be inaugurated between Yahweh and the people (Jer 31:31-34).

This hope was repeated by Ezekiel – the prophet who had lived with the exiles in Babylon (Ezk 33-39). It would also be proclaimed jubilantly by another, unnamed, prophet (Is 40-55) in the mid-6th century BC.

When Cyrus, the Persian king, captured Babylon in 539 BC, he issued a decree that allowed the exiles to return to Judea and rebuild the city of Jerusalem. ■



### Summary

*Those deported from the Northern Kingdom to Assyria would never return.*

*Not all of the exiles to Babylon were enslaved; some even began to play an active part in the life and economy of their new homeland.*

### Question

*How did the kingdom of David and Solomon become divided?*

### Prayer

*Lord, may our church never be divided.*



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Vol.46; No.15; Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B; 10 Mar 2024; Readings: 2Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23, Psalm 136, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21; Next Week: Saint Patrick.

Sat 9 Mar St Frances of Rome : Sun 10 Mar Lent 4 : Mon 11 Mar St Aegus : Tue 12 Mar Weekday : Wed 13 Mar Weekday : Thu 14 Mar Weekday : Fri 15 Mar Weekday : Sat 16 Mar Weekday : Sun 17 Mar St Patrick.

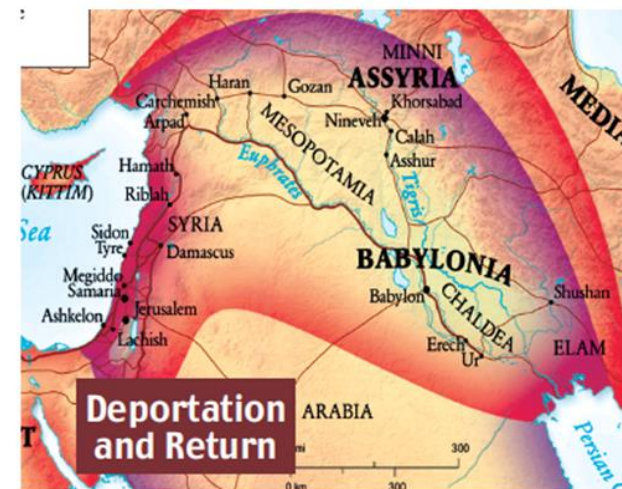


# SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Scripture; Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B; 10 Mar 2024

*The formation of the Bible as we have it today was hugely influenced by two deportations of the Hebrew people, but only one return. The first of the deportations took place in the 8th century BC when the Assyrian King, Tiglath-Pileser, invaded the northern kingdom of Israel and deported much of the population (2 Kgs 15:29-30). This invasion culminated in the fall of Samaria in 721 BC. It also involved the deportation of some 27,290 people to an area around Haran in northern Mesopotamia, some 750 km from their homeland (1 Kgs 17:5-6).*

*Amos and Hosea, two prophets of Israel (the northern kingdom), had prophesied the demise of Israel because of its worship of the Canaanite gods, Baal and Astarte, their infidelity to the Lord (the God of Israel) and their exploitation of the poor who were jealously protected by the Law.*



These deported people would never return, and the Assyrians replaced them in Israel with peoples from other parts of their empire. Thus the Hebrew ethnicity and religion became diluted and the land became known as "Galilee of the nations" (Is 9:1).

Although not all the Hebrew people were deported, those left behind became associated with the foreigners who had been planted among them, and so were looked down upon by the inhabitants of Judea, the southern kingdom.

### The Second Deportation

The second deportation, and the return which followed, is much more significant for the formation





## Our Mother of Divine Grace Church, Ballygall (1964 – 2024, 60 years as a Parish)

*Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes*

**(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Parish Website [www.ballygallparish.ie](http://www.ballygallparish.ie) Email [ballygallparish@outlook.com](mailto:ballygallparish@outlook.com)

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

### Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776      Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689      Office 01 8369291

### Mass Intentions Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

<b>Monday</b>	<b>7.25</b>	Available	<b>10.00</b>	Funeral Mass Brian Gorman
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7.25</b>	Available	<b>10.00</b>	Aileen Traynor
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7.25</b>	Available	<b>10.00</b>	Bill Shiel
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7.25</b>	Thomas O'Donohoe	<b>10.00</b>	James & Bridget O'Brien, Gerard & Margaret Lawlor
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7.25</b>	Special Intention	<b>10.00</b>	Oisín Fanning
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10.00</b>	Gerard & Margaret Lawlor	<b>Confessions Available after 10.00 mass</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	James Bassett, Patrick, Seamus & David Donnelly		
<b>St. Patricks Day</b>				
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10.00</b>	Ricky Byrne, Tom & John O'Shaughnessy		
	<b>11.30</b>	Marie & Jim Woulfe		

### Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased Nora Meehan and Brian Gorman & Patricia Dooley.

### My Lenten Prayer for Forgiveness

O my God, I thank you for loving me.

I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

### Volunteer weekend 9th/10th March

Share your gifts and talents- Many parishioners contribute to the work of the parish in a variety of different ministries. These volunteers are a vital part of our parish life and are much appreciated. Many more volunteers are needed. If you would like to join any of our parish groups, take the opportunity to look at the different parish groups displayed in the church this weekend and talk to the dedicated volunteers present after masses.

Support your upcoming Local  
Blood Drive!

**Erins Isle GAA Club Finglas  
Wednesday 13th March**

**3.45pm to 8.00pm**

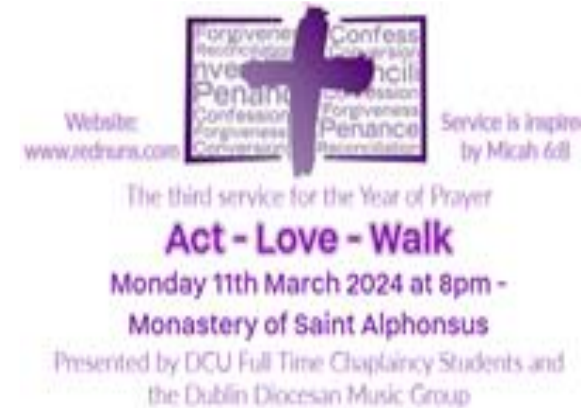
Your Town, Your Clinic.

Giving blood saves many lives.

#EveryOneCounts

[giveblood.ie](http://giveblood.ie)

Vincent de Paul monthly church gate  
collection takes place after all masses  
this weekend.



### Ballygall Parish celebrates its 60th Anniversary 1964 - 2024

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm in the parish rooms.

### Parish Clean Up

Save the date, **Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> after 10.00am** mass we will get the Church Grounds ready for our Easter Celebrations. All help will be greatly appreciated.

### Lenten Reconciliation Service with the Franciscan Fathers.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30pm**

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

After 10am Mass Thursday Mornings, until 11.30 the Blessed Sacrament will be on the Altar for Adoration. This takes place in the Oratory.

**Adoration in Our lady of Victories Church, every Monday during lent 12.00pm to 9.00pm**

### Dublin Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage

Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead our annual pilgrimage to Knock on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. This year we are celebrating 145 years since the apparition in 1879. We are glad to say that the Choir of Many Voices from throughout the Archdiocese will be back this year. **Our Lady of Victories** is organising a bus on the day. Leaving OLV at 7.45am, bring a packed lunch; leaving Knock 4.30pm after the Mass. €25. Contact Grainne 8420346 weekdays 10 – 1pm. See olv.ie for more details.

### Emmanuel 2024

Each year over 2000 secondary school students gather in Our Lady of Victories Church over 3 days (600+ per day) for faith based workshops before heading to The Helix for a wonderful performance of uplifting liturgical music. Please come along and support them on **12/13/14 March 2024 at 7.30pm**. Tickets available from the helix [www.helix.ie](http://www.helix.ie) 01 700 7000