

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us....**Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all holiness, who called Saint Laurence O'Toole from a life of quiet and solitude to be a shepherd of your people, a teacher of the clergy and friend of the poor; grant, we pray, that we may follow his example of perseverance and through his intercession arrive at the peace of your kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD**FIRST READING Ezekiel 36:24-28**

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
The Lord God says this:

"I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all idols. I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.



1 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **[R]**

2 He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **[R]**

3 You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **[R]**

4 Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **[R]**

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep, and my own know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and

**focus on sunday**

Solemnity of ST. LAURENCE O'TOOLE 14th November 2021

Principal Patron of the Archdiocese of Dublin

St Laurence O'Toole deserves to be remembered and imitated today as a man of prayer, a man of pity, and a man of peace.



was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

As we bring our intentions before the Lord, we pray for this diocese which St Laurence loved, and for which he now intercedes in heaven:

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Francis and Dermot, successor of St Laurence: may they help us seek the face of God and shape our lives in the eternal newness of Divine love. **A Thiarna éist linn.**

2. For those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life: may they receive all the support and guidance they need to respond generously to God's call. **A Thiarna éist linn.**

3. For all carrying heavy burdens of sickness, poverty, anguish, particularly those on the streets of Dublin. We are mindful of those suffering because of the ongoing effects of the pandemic. May they know the nearness of Christ to them through our compassionate care. **A Thiarna éist linn.**

4. For our own intentions, those of our families and those who have asked our prayers, we pray in trust: **A Thiarna éist linn.**

5. For all our departed loved ones, especially the deceased priests of the Archdiocese of Dublin: May they enjoy the companionship of the saints in the Father's House. **A Thiarna éist linn.**

Concluding Prayer: Almighty God, you have blessed our diocese with the example and prayers of St Laurence O'Toole. Through his intercession, restore our faith and vision, renew our energies and love that with your abundant grace we may serve you faithfully.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PRAYER: Glendalough gave him a hunger and thirst for prayer. In Dublin, his days were filled with business but the night belonged to God. He would spend long hours in the old cathedral of Christ Church pouring out his heart to the Lord, and some of those who overheard him swore that they heard a second voice answering him. Whenever he had a little free time, he would spend it in solitude in a hermitage in Glendalough. It was prayer that guided him and fuelled him in all he did.

PITY: As Abbot of Glendalough he was known for his generosity to the poor, especially during times of famine. When the monastery supplies were exhausted, he bought food from outside, using all the monastery's resources along with his own inheritance. In Dublin, in a city ravaged by war and hunger and disease, his generosity was tested to the limits. He fed the poor of the city at his table every day and opened his house to orphaned and abandoned children. At the height of the troubles, there were 200 abandoned children depending on him for food, clothing and lodging.

PEACE: He knew at first hand the suffering that war was bringing to his countrymen. He spent the last ten years of his life in an endless succession of peace missions, travelling from one armed camp to another in Ireland and often making the wearisome and dangerous journey to the court of the English King. It was his defence of his people's rights before Henry II that led to his exile and his lonely death.

WE NEED THESE GIFTS: We still have need of prayer, of pity and of peace. We need the gift of prayer, that our lives and actions may be centred on God. We need the gift of pity, that our eyes may be opened and our hearts touched by those who are hungry and in want. We need the gift of peace in our distracted country, still fighting the battles that began in Laurence's time and have not yet reached a solution.

HONOURING OUR PATRON: The greatest honour we can pay our patron saint is to look on the people of our diocese with his eyes, to speak for them with his voice, to serve them with his hands, and to love them with his great and noble heart.

Homily notes on St. Laurence O'Toole