

EPICLESIS VIRTUAL CHAPTER HOUSE

Prayer and Eucharist, Thursday, January 22, 2026

Celtic Daily Prayer Book 2, Colman Readings, January 22

Psalm 34:13-14 † Proverbs 16:27-28 † 2 Corinthians 12:20

Daily Reading

A scene in the film “Doubt” shows the destructive nature of gossip.

A woman was gossiping with her friend about a man whom they hardly knew. That night, she had a dream: a great hand appeared over her and pointed down on her. She was immediately seized with an overwhelming sense of guilt. The next day she went to confession and told the old parish priest, Father O’Rourke, the whole thing. “Is gossiping a sin?” she asked the old priest. “Was that God Almighty’s hand pointing down at me? Father, have I done something wrong?”

“Yes,” Father O’Rourke answered. “You have borne false witness against your neighbor. You played fast and loose with his reputation, and you should be heartily ashamed.”

Meditation

So, the woman said she was sorry and asked for forgiveness. “Not so fast,” said O’Rourke. “I want you to go home, take pillow up on your roof, cut it open with a knife, and return here to me.” So, the woman went home, took a pillow off her bed, a knife from the drawer, went up the fire escape to her roof, and cut the pillow. Then she went back to Father O’Rourke as instructed. “Did you cut the pillow with a knife?” he asked. “Yes, Father.” “And what were the results?” “Feathers,” she said. “Feathers?” he repeated. “Feathers everywhere, Father.”

“Now I want you to go back and gather up every last feather that flew out onto the wind.” “Well,” she said, “it can’t be done. I don’t know where they went. The wind took them all over.” “And that, said Father O’Rourke, “is gossip.”