



DO

When you next see a tree by the roadside, think of someone you know who has an important role in public life or is a supremely professional individual. Now imagine that person sitting in the tree, desperate to see what is going on at the front of a large crowd. What would you think of that person? What could you envisage as being so vitally important that would drive them to do something so out of character? What, if anything, would compel you to climb a tree in front of a crowd of people? Does that help you to appreciate Zacchaeus?

LEARN

The most common word for sin means to fall short, to miss the mark. A sinner is often not someone who lives an objectively immoral or evil life, but someone whose work or profession means that they cannot observe the Law properly.

Jericho is an oasis in the desert south of Jerusalem. It was a resort popular with the wealthy during the winter when the capital city was cold and windy. It is one of the oldest known sites of human habitation.

Table-fellowship, sharing a meal, is a powerful symbol that the members are at peace with one another. In the Bible, hospitality is a duty and a sacred bond.

In Luke's gospel, joy is often the reaction to Jesus' actions, which are symbolic of God intervening in people's lives for their salvation, hospitality is a duty and a sacred bond.

SAY
The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.

We have probably all met at least one person who has stood on his or her dignity.

This sort of person adopts a somewhat superior attitude and refuses to demean him/herself by joining in with other people in what is going on, as they feel it is beneath them, due to their profession or place in society. They would never dream of doing anything which would hold them up to ridicule by lesser mortals. Zacchaeus is someone with an important position as a senior tax collector. But for all that, he has two things going against him. First of all he is one of the despised characters of the time, being regarded as a collaborator with the Roman forces of occupation. He also cannot see what is going on, not because he is physically blind, but because he is not tall enough. However, he is determined that neither of these disadvantages is going to come between him and Jesus, so, like a little boy, he runs on ahead of the crowd and forgetting whatever dignity we might think he ought to be concerned about, he climbs a tree to get a good view.

In the "mission statement" Jesus gives in the synagogue at Nazareth, restoring of sight to the blind is at the heart. If someone sees clearly and properly, then they will be able to accept Jesus and his message. Wealth and possessions can obscure a person's vision, forming a kind of cataract as it were. Luke presents a few examples of the themes of sight and wealth combined, and Zacchaeus stands for someone who is wealthy but cannot see. But his determination to find out what kind of man Jesus was leads him to a personal encounter with Jesus which turns his life round. He puts into practice another of Luke's themes, that of sharing with the poor and restoring what he has gained by fraud or sharp practice. In this, he shows himself to be a son of Abraham, a true member of the people of Israel, no matter what others may say about him.

Jesus does not wait for Zacchaeus to amend his life before he accepts him. He invites himself to dinner: Zacchaeus and all the others present realise what this means, that Jesus is accepting him as he is by sharing table-fellowship with him. It is being accepted which leads the tax collector to change his life freely and in joy. Jesus' pastoral strategy seems to work. ■

REFLECT

The people round about describe Zacchaeus as a sinner. This is not because he is necessarily a bad person in a moral sense, but because his profession puts him outside the circle of those who could be classified as righteous, those who kept the Law. Sin in this sense has more to do with failure than with malice. All through Luke's gospel we are presented with the paradox that very often it is the person who is objectively in the wrong who gets it right. We can easily see how wealth can affect

a person's set of values: it is not so clear perhaps that to be preoccupied with the things of religion can obscure a person's appreciation of God. It is possible to be a member of a Christian denomination but not necessarily a Christian if we are preoccupied with the externals, with customs or formulas and forget that these are not ends in themselves but means to a closer contact and relationship with the Lord. It is possible for someone to find the Church, but not to find God.

The Word of God is something alive and active. The Gospels are addressed to us

today, as individuals and as a Church. The teachings of Jesus apply just as much to us as they did to the Jewish religion of his time: we are not exempt and should not think smugly that his criticisms were only for the priests and Pharisees of the first century. They have a lasting relevance, and we all stand under the judgment of his word. The characters in the gospel are representative of different kinds of people: with whom do you identify in the story of Zacchaeus and his life-transforming encounter with Jesus? ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 30th October 2016

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore	All Saints Ballela
Saturday(Vigil) 6.00pm	Sunday 10.00am
Sunday 11.30am	

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon, Thur & Fri 9.30am: Mass
Wed: 9.30am: Rosary with Eucharist
Sat: 10-11am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Sat: Confessions 10-11am (First Sat of the month)

Feast of All Saints: Tuesday 2nd November

Vigil Mass, All Saints, **Mon 1st - 7.30pm**
Mass, St Colman's, **Tues 2nd - 10am**

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 30: Willie John McPolin
Sun 6: Johnny McEvoy
Kathleen McAleenan
Hugh, Mary Teresa & Hugh Jun McCusker

Dromore Anniversaries

Sat 29: None
Sun 30: Colman, Bridget, Pat & Seamus Mackin
Ken & Ann Dexter
Sat 5: None
Sun 6: None

Offertory Promise Collection

Sun 16th Oct £1050.35
Sun 23rd Oct £1423.57

Readers - Dromore

Sat 5: Siobhan McArdle
Sun 6: José Calixto

Recently baptised

Finley Ben Hickland

Tea & strictly Chat

Tea & strictly Chat takes place in St Colman's Hall on Sun 30th Oct after 11.30am Mass. Everyone Welcome .See notice below.

Strictly Come Dancing

Peter Verhoeven. Grainne Killiner & Patrick Rooney will be dancing on Nov 5th to raise funds for Via Wings in memory of Mary Verhoeven. Please join them and their dance partners in St Colman's Hall after mass on Sun 30th Oct for refreshments and to hear about the last 2 months of preparation. They would appreciate any support you can give them. Details at the back of church.

Parish Draw Winners Week 25

£100	Gearldine Starrs	562
£50	Billy O'Loughlin	079
£30	Louis Boyle	025
£20	Ann McAleenan	416

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 3 5 15 21

£10 winner's: Keith Tumilty, Susan McCusker & Sarah Jane Bingham. Seller: Sean Burns
Next week's Jackpot: £5000

Ballela GAC Dinner Dance

This year's Dinner Dance will take place on Sat 12th Nov in the Downshire Hotel Hilltown at 7.30pm. Tickets are £25. If you are interested in attending could you please contact a committee member. AGM will be held on Sun 20th Nov at 2pm in Ballela School. All club member to attend.

Scór NanÓg

Well done to the girls who took part in the Scór NanÓg last week. Congratulations to the Ceili Dancers, Emily Gribben, Kerry Henry, Oliveen & Kate O'Rourke who came second and are through to the semi - final in Mayobridge on 12th Nov at 4pm. Also to Tara McAnarney who came first in the solo singing and is through to the final in Warrenpoint on Sun 20th Nov at 4pm and to Aoibhe Starrs and Lucy Devlin who took part in the instrumental group. A big thank you to Patricia (Rooney) Campbell for preparing the dancers.

Anniversary Masses

Please place stipend in an envelope or use envelopes provided in vestry. Write the name of the deceased and date of mass on envelope. Thank You

November Dead Lists

Are available at the back of the church, please take one and return it within the next few weeks.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will take place as follows:
Tues 1st Nov – Dromore
Wed 2nd Nov – Ballela

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes Committee

Meeting on Mon 7th Nov at 8pm in All Saints School.

Collectors for All Saints : November

Bernard McCusker & John Doyle