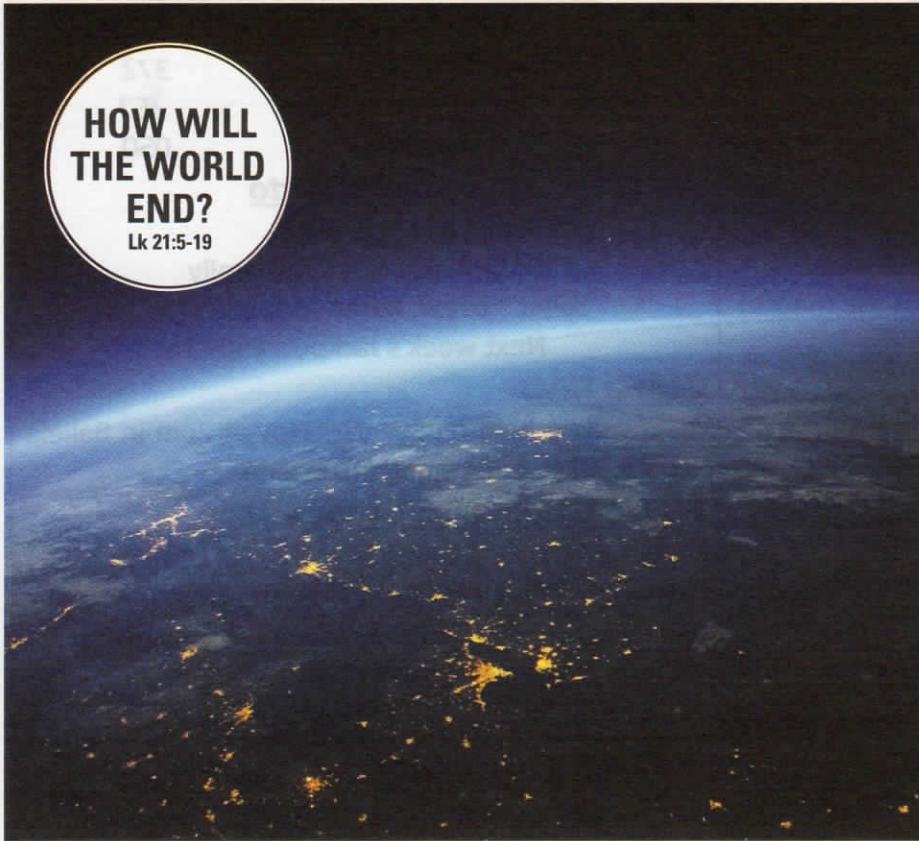


HOW WILL THE WORLD END?

Lk 21:5-19



The End of the World is Nigh! If we have not actually seen for ourselves someone carrying a placard with this cheery message, we are familiar with the scene from photographs and films.

Apocalyptic is the word generally used when describing disastrous events of epic proportions. This in fact is the term used to classify a certain kind of writing in the Bible: it portrays the end of the world and the terrible events which will precede it. This leads some people to conclude that wars and natural disasters are the heralds of the imminent destruction of everything. But this is to understand in a literal way a text which is to be understood symbolically. The events mentioned happen all the time, but life goes on.

After describing the calamities, Jesus tells his disciples that they may well find themselves persecuted for their beliefs. But if they remain steadfast they will be saved and vindicated. This is the purpose of apocalyptic writing, to encourage those undergoing persecution to remain faithful. The end of this world is not the end of everything. God will be present with his faithful ones and give them the courage to bear witness. This is the Day of the Lord, when the Lord will come in judgment.

Martyrdom has been regarded as the supreme act of witness. The heroes of the early church were those men and women who gave their lives for their faith during the persecutions in the Roman empire. But martyrdom is not something to be sought. In fact, Jesus warns his disciples (that is, us) to pray that we will not find ourselves in the position of having to answer for our faith. In Luke's account of Jesus in Gethsemane, Jesus rebukes his disciples for sleeping when they should be praying not to be put to the test. The final test for Jesus is the Passion, which he would rather avoid but accepts as the Father's will. At the end of the Lord's Prayer we say, Lead us not into temptation: this really means Do not put us to the test – do not let us suffer persecution and have to stand up for our faith, because we might not pass the test. ■

REFLECT

There are places in the world where people are imprisoned and suffer greatly for their beliefs. They may be targeted for their religious faith, be it Christian, Jewish or any other. But there are others who suffer for their commitment to social justice, who stand up to powerful people and institutions because of what they believe to be right. They do not do so because they hope for a reward either now or in some future life, but simply because it is the right thing to do.

This is not the same as seeking to be a martyr. It is true that such a person will be well aware of the consequences of living up to their beliefs and ideals. In the Bible, standing up for those who cannot defend themselves is seen as representing the Lord's values: that social justice is not an optional extra to a life of devotion, but that the one should support the other. The Eucharist is not a private devotion: it is a communal celebration and should be a spur to us all to bring about the Kingdom of God in the world in which we live. ■

DO

Spare a thought for those who are being persecuted for their beliefs. Is there any way you can help them?

LEARN

The main apocalyptic texts in the Bible are the Book of Daniel, written to encourage the Jews undergoing persecution by the Syrian overlord (167-164 BCE), and the Book of Revelation (or Apocalypse), written during the persecution of the Christians in Rome (probably about the year 90 CE).

Apocalyptic writing is presented in code: the symbols should not be taken literally or applied uncritically to current events.

The presence of God is indicated usually in the Bible by the mention of fire.

The sun of righteousness is mentioned in the popular Christmas hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".

SAY

The Lord comes to rule the world with justice.

PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev PJ Murray PP
Parochial House Tel: 028 9269-2218
www.stcolmans.org

St Vincent de Paul Helpline:
07738838187

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon
Mobile: 07746-842977
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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville
07789 917741

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 13th November 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 & Tues, NO MASS 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)

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 13: Joseph Magee
Mary Galvin
Margaret McAnarney & Members of the
McCann Family, Co Cavan

Sun 20: Mary McGrath
William, Susan & Willie McAleenan

Dromore Anniversaries

Sat 12: Patrick & Lucy Delaney
James & Agnes Burns

Sun 13: None

Sat 19: None

Sun 20: Mairead Keery

Offertory Promise Collection £1163.85

Readers - Dromore

Sat 19: Kate Cunningham

Sun 20: Ciara Downey

Recently Deceased

Geoffrey Steele, Scotch St, Downpatrick

Do This In Memory (Week 3)

Will take place in both Churches on Sun 20th Nov.

Hospice Collection

There will be a collection taken up at both churches on the weekend of **Sun 20th November**
Please be a generous as possible. Thank You.

Sequence Dance Class

New Beginners dance Class in St Colmans Hall every Thur 8pm to 10pm, Adm £3. Instructors Wesley & Kirsty. Everyone Welcome.

Whist

On Sun 20th Nov in St Colmans Hall. Ladies to supply pastry: Sally Doherty & Frances Kattorah.

Parish Draw Winners Week 27

£100	Frances O'Hare	574
£50	H,S,& A Brooker	372
£30	Michael Finegan	257
£20	Ann Gordon	050

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 3 7 9 22

£10 Winner: McAnulty Family

Seller's Draw: Susan McCusker

Next week's Jackpot: £5000

Ballela GAC

AGM will be held on Sun 20th Nov at 2pm in Ballela School. All club member's to attend.

Special Mass for the Deceased since

31.10.2013

A Mass to commemorate and pray for the deceased of our Parish since Nov 2013, will be held on Thursday 24th November at 7.30pm in St. Colman's church. The following is a list from our Parish records of those who have died. Please let us know if there is anyone from **our Parish** who has died and is not included in the list:

Francie McDonald, Willie McAleenan, Kathleen Doherty, Mary McKeown, Mary Verhoeven, Rose McAleenan, James McAleenan, George Burns, Mary Murphy, Jean Mulgrew, Alice Burns, Patricia Wilson, Sally Cunningham, David Shillington, Thomas Mackin, Brian Bradley, Donald McCusker, Nance Stokesbury, Isabel McEvoy, Anne McCoy, Joe McCusker, James Murray, Andy McAleenan, Sam Clarke, Vera Downey, Rosaleen McGreevy, Seamus Polland, Michael McConville, Patricia Fox, Patsy Mallon, Josephine Rainey, Maureen McGivern. A candle, which can be brought to the altar during Mass, will be given to each bereaved family and the candles can be placed on graves after Mass.

Tea & Chat Will take place on Sun 20th Nov in St Colmans Hall. Everyone welcome

Dromore Annaclone & Ballela Lourdes

committee

Please note Dromore Annaclone and Ballela fundraising bingo will now take place on the 4th December at 1500 in Ballela not the 27th of November as previously stated. Tickets on sale £1 each for a Xmas hamper value £100 contact any member of the committee.

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