

EVERY INCH A KING

Lk 23:35-43



Kings and queens are generally regarded today as figures belonging to the past, at least in the sense of absolute rulers who are accountable to no-one.

For very many people, the idea of anyone being entitled to wield power over others simply by an accident of birth is totally unacceptable. In the countries of the world known as the West, democracy is the normal form of government: this means that the citizen has a right to have some say in the decision as to who will be in charge of running the country, and to change the government if that seems to be the right thing to do.

In the reading from the book of Samuel, we hear how the northern tribes of Israel chose David as their king. David was already king in the southern city of Hebron, and with this decision, this election, he became the figurehead, the focus of unity for the twelve tribes. His rule is described in terms of being a shepherd, a leader. His election is confirmed by a pact, a covenant, the same word used to define the Lord's relationship with Israel. And that too is a free choice: Moses and Joshua earlier challenged the people to choose the God they will serve. They recounted what the Lord had done for them during the exodus event, then asked them to decide for themselves whether or not they would make a covenant agreement with the Lord. There was no imposing of the covenant and its consequences: the people freely accepted the Lord as their God. We find the same approach in the Gospels: Jesus does not force anyone to become his disciple, he lets them decide for themselves and does not try to change their mind if they choose not to follow him.

The hymn from Colossians picks up this theme of Christ as the focus of unity, the Head of the Church. It speaks about all things being reconciled through him, making peace by giving his life on the cross. In the crucifixion scene from the gospel, Jesus is proclaimed King of the Jews, a title both ironic and accurate. But what kind of a king? One who gives his life for the people. One who pardons and offers a dying criminal a place with him. This is our God, the Servant King. ■

SAY

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

LEARN

Hebron was the city in the south of the country. David was acknowledged as king there first by the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The other ten tribes accepted him later.

The king was not above the Law: he was to be the focus of unity for the people and to uphold justice in the land.

The good thief was in fact simply a criminal: the word is used to describe individuals who took part in the rebellion against Roman rule after the time of Jesus.

Christ is the Head of the Church, not the pope.

DO

Consider that being a member of the Church, of the People of God, should be the result of a free decision on our part. Each Easter we are invited to renew our baptismal commitment to be a disciple of Jesus. Is this just a formality for you, or a real expression of what you actually believe? Renew your commitment to the Lord on this feast of Christ, the Universal King.



REFLECT

The king in Israel was seen as being subject to the Law, just like anyone else. When the office of king was established with Saul, the place of the prophet was also confirmed. The prophet was the bearer of the word of God and had a protected place in the society as a check on the monarch, to ensure that he remembered that he was not absolutely free to do as he liked. Ideally, the king's role was one of service, but

after David's time it developed in a more typical fashion. The saying about power corrupting is sadly only too true in this case.

The notion of the leader of the people as a shepherd continues to this day in the church. Bishops carry a crozier, a stylized shepherd's crook, as a symbol of what their office is all about. In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus is characterized as the

model shepherd, the pattern for all who are called to this form of service among the people of God. Although the readings today centre on the cross, we might remember that the cross is the final and clearest sign of Jesus' commitment to his mission from God: it is the culmination of a life given in service to others, and in that he is the model, not just for our leaders, but for all of us in our own lives. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev PJ Murray PP
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07738838187

Christ The King

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Sunday 20th 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, 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 20: Mary McGrath
William, Susan & Willie McAleenan
Sun 27: Danny, Seamus, Colum, Patrick and
Ailie Doran
Daniel & Teresa Doyle

Dromore Anniversaries

Sat 19: None
Sun 20: Mairead Keery
Sat 26: None
Sun 27: Kathleen Doherty

Offertory Promise Collection £844.70

Readers - Dromore

Sat 26: Patsy McCorry
Sun 27: Grainne Killiner

Recently Baptised

Molly Amelia Taylor

Recently Deceased

Marion McCartan, formerly of Dromore Rd, Banbridge.

"Order of Acolyte" Michael Rooney will receive "The Order of Acolyte", in Newry Cathedral on Sun 27th Nov at 10am. This is the final stage of preparation for the Permanent Diaconate, you are welcome to attend.

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.

Whist

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

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

Parish Draw Winners Week 28

£100	Gerry Mallon	476
£50	Lily Lennon	442
£30	John McKeown	185
£20	Evan Doyle	338

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 5 7 8 20

No £10 Winner's 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.

Ballela Community Group

Christmas Coffee Morning will be held in All Saints PS on Sun 11th Dec after 10am Mass. There will be delicious homemade scones, buns and treats for everyone and there will be a chance for all the kids to visit Santa in his Grotto. Adm £2 per person.

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.

Dromore Annaclone & Ballela Lourdes

committee Please note Dromore Annaclone and Ballela fundraising bingo will now take place on the 4th December at 3pm 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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