

If you go into an art gallery you will see fine paintings hanging on the walls and will probably stop and spend time contemplating one which has caught your eye.

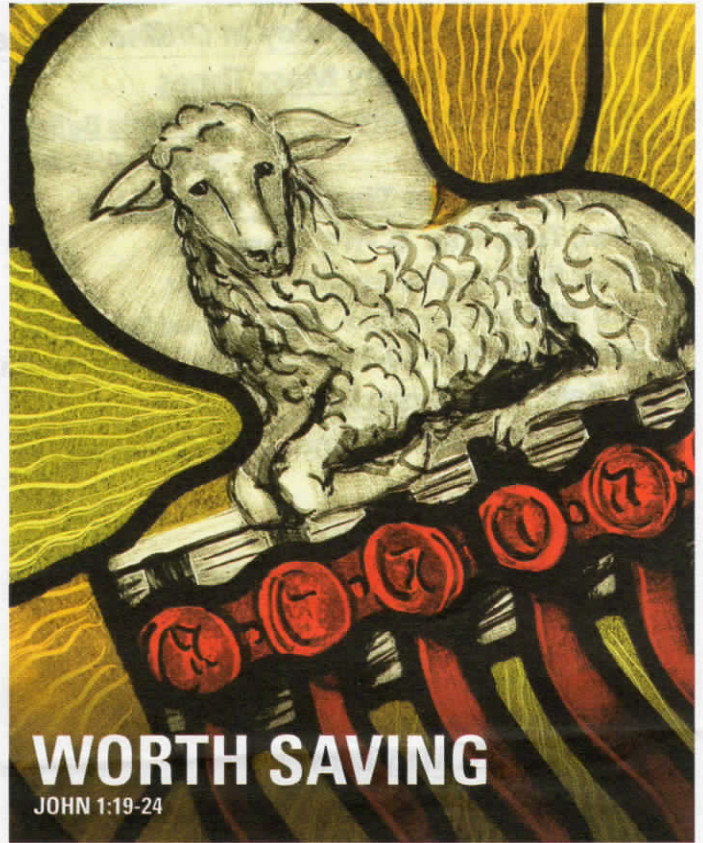
If the painting is an original, you may discover that the artist has also designed the frame so that the viewer will see the work of art to its fullest advantage. The frame may be a work of art in itself, but its function is to present the painting: without it, the viewer's experience would be diminished.

The idea of Jesus as the Lamb of God forms the frame for the Gospel of John. It comes at the beginning with the declaration of John the Baptist and returns in symbolic form at the scene of the crucifixion. It thus colours how the fourth evangelist understands the person of Jesus. When we hear him described as the Lamb of God, the gospel writer hopes that we will think, Where have I heard this before? - and make the link with the Passover lamb in the story of the Exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt. There the lamb is the similar means by which Israel is saved from the angel of death: for John, Jesus is the means by which God will redeem people from slavery to sin, the power which works to separate human beings from God. This is the evangelist's way of helping us to understand the person and the significance of Jesus. Jesus is not only the new Passover lamb - he is also the new Temple, the place where we come into the presence of God.

But we have a part to play in God's plan and in the work of Jesus. We are not saved against our will. We say that Jesus has taken away the sin of the world, but we all know that we are still left with our weaknesses and bad habits. It takes constant daily effort to overcome these and to do our best to live up to our ideals as disciples of Jesus. People who are trying to give up an addiction are encouraged to take one day at a time: sometimes they get through one day by telling themselves "I'll have a drink tomorrow", if that is their problem, then when the next day comes make the same resolution. But first we must believe that God regards us as worth saving, that Jesus came not to satisfy some notion of divine justice but more than that, to invite us into friendship with God. Sin is what gets in the way. The sin of the world is that absolute block which separates human beings from the Lord, and that is what Jesus has removed. The sins we usually talk about are shortcomings, failing to reach the ideal, not rejecting God altogether. Jesus does not condemn the people he meets for these, but encourages them - and us - to look beyond them, to a loving and merciful God who created us basically good. ■

## REFLECT

One way in which language has changed in recent times is that you often hear people saying something like "Me and my friend went to the cinema" instead of "My friend and I went to the cinema". Whether or not this reflects a more self-centred attitude on the part of the speaker, the older way of speaking encouraged the speaker to put the other person first. John the Baptist is presented as recognising Jesus as the one to whom he must give way, that his role in the story was to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus, and now it is time for him to leave the stage. His was the attitude of the priest of our day who prayed, "Lord, keep me out of your way": perhaps there are times when we, usually with the best of intentions, get in the way between another person and the Lord. ■



## LEARN

The Lamb of God refers to the lamb sacrificed to celebrate the Jewish Passover: John the evangelist wants to show Jesus as replacing this important symbol in his own person.

The rite of the scapegoat was the only "sacrifice" in which the victim was "loaded" with the sins of the people: the victim was not killed, but driven out into the wilderness.

Sin of the world is an accurate translation of the New Testament expression: sins of the world reflects the Latin translation of the original Greek.

The gospel according to John is the latest of the four versions, written towards the end of the first century (CE).

## DO

Make a renewed act of faith in the consecrated host when the priest holds it up before communion and says "Behold the Lamb of God..."

## SAY

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.



# PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev Conor McConville PP, Tel: 02892 611347

Very Rev PJ Murray

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon

Parochial House Tel: 028 9269-2218

Parish website: [www.stcolmans.org](http://www.stcolmans.org)

Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish email address: [office@stcolmans.org](mailto:office@stcolmans.org)

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187 Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore

All Saints Ballela

Sunday 11.00am

Sunday 9.45am

### 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 15: Mary Ann & Patrick Alex McAleenan

Sun 22: None

### Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 15: Catherine & George Mussen

Nan & Jim Connolly

Desmond Gorman

Joe Topley

Yvonne Reidy

Sun 22: John & Mary Burns

Offertory Promise Collection £1208.28

### Readers - Dromore

Sun 22: Eibhlin Scott

### Recently Deceased

Sarah McGuigan, Beechgrove Dromore

Francis Hamilton, Weirs Row, Dromore

### Recently Baptised

Josh John Moreland

### Do This In Memory (Week 5)

Will take place in both churches on Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

### Whist

Whist will be held in St Colman's hall Dromore on

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. Ladies to provide pastry are:

Josephine Mulligan & Elizabeth McGuigan

### Tea and Chat

Will take place in St Colmans hall on Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan

after 11am mass. Everyone welcome.

### Annaclone Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

### Committee

Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan at 8.30pm in Ballela School

### Parish Draw Winners Week 36

£100 Caroline Rooney 086

£50 Heater Robinson 322

£30 Patrick Kelly 231

£20 Lily Lennon 442

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 2 11 15 19

No £10 Winner's

Seller's Draw: John Doyle

Next week's Jackpot: £5000

### Weight Watchers Class

The class will resume on Monday evenings at 6pm in

St Colman's Hall, Dromore. Everyone welcome,

Tea/coffee. For more information contact

Gearldine Tel: 07776109903.

### St Colman's College Newry

Open Day on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan from 10.00am – 1.00pm.

Principal Cormac McKinney will address guests at

11.00am & 12noon. For further details:

Tel 02830262451, email: [info@stcolmans.org.uk](mailto:info@stcolmans.org.uk).

Prospective post 16 students and their

parents/guardians are also very welcome to attend.

### Assumption Grammar School

Open Day will take place on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 10am-1pm.

Principal's Address: 10am & 12 noon. We look

forward to meeting P6 & P7 pupils and those wishing

to transfer into Sixth Form.

### Anniversary/Months Mind Mass

All bookings for Anniversary and Months Mind Masses

should be made through the parish office during the

following times; Mon, Wed & Fri between 10.15 –

1.30pm. Tel: 02892692218 or email the office at:

[office@stcolmans.org](mailto:office@stcolmans.org).

### Prayer For The Day

Lord, Create in me an open, humble and contrite

heart, and give me a hunger and thirst to know in a

fresh way a coming of the Holy Spirit which will renew

my heart and refresh my spirit.