

## THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 3



## GOD IS WAITING FOR US

MT 4:12-23

A group of teenage boys from a large city once went on retreat to a monastery in the countryside. Although the rooms in the monastery had two beds, each boy was given a room to himself.

They all went off to bed on the first night and in the morning the priest who was leading the retreat discovered that they had all doubled up during the night. It turned out that these apparently big tough lads could not cope with the absolute darkness of the remote monastery and the silence which was broken only by the hooting of owls. It was a complete new experience for them and one which they did not find at all congenial.

People who live in cities do not experience darkness and silence of that sort often or at all. Street lighting ensures that there is always sufficient illumination to see by, and traffic sounds are seldom totally missing. But we can all have the sense of being lost in a strange place: if we are driving in an unfamiliar and busy city and find ourselves caught in a one-way system it can be quite frightening as we are taken into an area which looks threatening and we cannot see any way of getting to our intended destination. The feeling of being lost and abandoned can be overwhelming. Then the relief when we see a sign indicating the road we want is just as strong as our anxiety was.

Anyone who takes their spiritual life seriously will experience times when God seems absent: writers on this subject talk about the dark night of the soul. The Old Testament talks about this as the shadow of death, meaning complete and utter darkness. But sometimes this is the way in which God becomes present to us, making us think about God by experiencing God's absence. The darkness may seem like a threat, as it did to the boys on that retreat, but if we want to come closer to God we will have to travel through some dark places: but God will be waiting for us in the dark and silent places of our life. ■



## DO

Light a candle, either in church or at home. Think about the start of the Easter Vigil, the darkened church, the entry of the single paschal candle, the gradual increase in the light from the candles of the congregation. It is the same light from the one source: so we can be the light of the world, bearing the light of Christ.

## REFLECT

The Second Vatican Council document which deals with the Church begins with the words Christ is the light of the nations. Light helps us see: it lets us read; it allows us to do all kinds of things in regard to work and our leisure activities. Without light our lives are extremely limited, and darkness is a threat precisely because we cannot see. To deprive a person of light is a very cruel thing to do. Light is attractive: moths will fly through the darkness to reach a burning lamp, and the light of Christ is there to attract people to God.

Everyone is called to be holy. This means being close to God and living in relationship with God. A holy life will follow from this inner relationship. There is a saying that prayer and sin cannot co-exist: the person will give up one or the other. If we truly love another person we will not want to do anything which might jeopardise our relationship with them. Like our human relationships, our friendship with God goes through different stages, but we might remember that in the bible to believe and to trust are the same verb. ■

## LEARN

Zebulun and Naphtali were two of the tribes of Israel. Their territories were in Galilee, to the west and north respectively of the Sea of Galilee.

The area of Zebulun and Naphtali had been annexed by the rising Assyrian empire in the time of Isaiah (733 BCE).

The land of Israel was the main trade and military route between Egypt and Syria and the major powers of biblical times. Its importance lay in its strategic position.

Matthew often cites the Old Testament to show that God's promises to Israel are fulfilled in Jesus.

## SAY

The Lord is my light and my help.

# PARISH OF DROMORE

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## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</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 22:** None

**Sun 29:** Jim McAleenan

Martin Magee

Mariea McCrickard

Eddie & Elizabeth McGrath

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 22:** John & Mary Burns

Joe & Anne Mulgrew

**Sun 29:** Wenny Moreland

Isabelle & James Mulgrew

John Gribbin

John Finegan

Rosaleen McGreevy

### Offertory Promise Collection £877.82

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 29:** Colin Skillen

### Recently Deceased

Hugh Eadie, Connollystown Rd, Dromore

### Do This In Memory (Week 5)

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

### 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). Notices must be in before 5.00pm on Thursday if they are to be included in that weekend's bulletin.

### Tea and Chat

Will take place in St Colmans hall on Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan after 11am mass. Everyone welcome.

### Parish Draw Winners Week 37

£100	Kathleen Doyle	285
£50	John Murphy	135
£30	May Scott	189
£20	Betty McStraw	182

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 8 13 17 21

£10 Winner's: Carol Mackin & Noel Burns

Seller's Draw: Sean Burns

Next week's Jackpot: £5000

### Ballela Community Group

Are holding their AGM on Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan at 7.30pm in Ballela School. New members are welcome.

### Dromore, Annaclone and Ballela Lourdes

#### Committee

Grand Draw and dance takes place in St Colmans Hall, Dromore on Sat 18th Feb, music by Kevin Kearney. Tickets for this draw are currently on sale.

Lourdes Pilgrimage **17th to 22nd of May 2017.**

Anyone wishing to travel as sick or pilgrim, contact any committee member, Pilgrim fare is £595 .If there are any nurses who are new to the Parish and would be willing to give up their time to go to work in Lourdes contact Frances Kattourah on 07894166791. Next committee meeting is on Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at 8.30pm in Ballela School.

**St Vincent de Paul** Would like to express a heartfelt appreciation to all Parishioners who so generously supported our Christmas Family Appeal, particularly those who responded so promptly and thoughtfully to the Christmas Giving Tree, to those who supported our Red Box Collections and those who supported us by their Prayers. Through your assistance we were able to provide support to over 70 families and individuals, including 12 children. May God bless you throughout 2017.

### John Paul II Awards - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

All past and present participants, Award leaders and Volunteers are invited to celebrate this event with a pilgrimage to Rome. Please see leaflets at back of chapel.