

GETTING THE RIGHT BALANCE

MT 5:1-12



Humility is a quality which is often much misunderstood. It is the opposite of pride, but pride itself is the negative exaggeration of a positive value, which is self-respect.

To be humble really means to have a proper evaluation of oneself, of one's strengths as well as one's weaknesses. The picture of Uriah Heep in the novel *David Copperfield* and his claim to be ever so humble is a caricature of the ingratiating person, and whether a person can honestly claim to be humble is open to question. Some descriptions can only be rightly given by other people and not appropriated by the individual in question. Boasting about one's talents and achievements seldom endears the person to their listeners: the same goes for someone who cannot accept a compliment but immediately points out how he or she could have done better. Someone once described being humble as being right-sized: having an honest and fair appreciation of our abilities and our limitations.

This quality is the first in Jesus' list of people who are blessed: Matthew calls them the poor in spirit, otherwise rendered as those who know their need of God. Getting the balance right is always tricky – most of us know this from having to find time for work, family and other relationships and interests. So it is with our lives as Christians. One extreme is to think we have (and can) do everything by ourselves and end up exhausted through our efforts: the other extreme is to leave everything to God and adopt a somewhat apathetic or fatalistic attitude. As usual, the ideal is somewhere in the middle: to co-operate with the grace of God, with the Holy Spirit in our lives. Without that sense that we are somehow poor in spirit, accepting our need of God, then all those other attitudes will be beyond our reach. The balance between works and grace is a delicate one, but if we acknowledge our need of God, then we are in with a chance of achieving it – with God's help. ■

DO

Make a list of your abilities and your weaknesses. Consider how often you ask for God's help during the day. Renew your practice of the Morning Offering when you ask for God's help and the evening examination of conscience, remembering to give thanks for the things which have gone well during the day.

SAY

Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

LEARN

Matthew's gospel is well organised into five sections of teaching and narrative.

It was the version of the gospel most used by the early teachers of the church.

The word Beatitude comes from the Latin word *Beati* which means Blessed are ...

Jesus delivering his teaching in the Sermon on the Mount recalls Moses receiving the Law from God on Mount Sinai.



Detail of victorian stained glass church window in Fringford depicting Moses with the tablets of covenant in his arms

REFLECT

Paul in his letter to the Christians at Philippi tells us that Christ Jesus humbled himself and became obedient – he accepted his mission, his role in God's plan for human beings, even though this would bring him to the cross. Perhaps another facet of being humble is accepting our role in life, whatever it may be. This does not mean accepting all sorts

of misfortune without a mutter, but rather realising that our contribution is just as important as anyone else's. It may be that something along those lines is what the bishops of the Church meant when they taught that everyone is called to be holy, that no one state of life is better or more holy than another. The married life is just as much a vocation as being called

to the ordained ministry or religious life. The fundamental vocation is to be a disciple of Jesus: how we live out our vocation differs from person to person. But whatever it may be, our fundamental attitude should be one of service, because in the end, we all depend on the grace of God to live up to our calling. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 29th 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, Wed, Thur & Fri 9.30am: Mass

Tues: 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 29: Jim McAleenan

Martin Magee

Mariea McCrickard

Eddie & Elizabeth McGrath

Sun 5: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 29: Wenny Moreland

Isobel & James Mulgrew

John Gribbin

John Finegan

Rosaleen McGreevy

Kathleen McGuigan

Sun 5: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1462.83

Feasts of The Week

Wed 1st Feb – Feast of St Brigid – Mass 9.30am

Thur 2nd Feb – Candlemas Day – Mass 9.30am

Fri 3rd Feb – Feast of St Blaise - Mass at 9.30

Blessing of throats afterwards.

Readers - Dromore

Sun 5: José Calixto

Collectors, All Saints – February

Bernard Cosgrave & Willie Doyle

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. Notices must be in before 5.00pm on Thursday to be included in that weekend's bulletin.

Parish Draw Winners Week 38

£100 Paul & Roisin Rice 543

£50 Siobhan McCrory 191

£30 Joe & Ethna Mulgrew 044

£20 Helen Downey 018

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 6 20 21 23

No £10 Winner's. Seller's Draw: Susan McCusker

Next week's Jackpot: £5000

Ballela Community Group

The group are restarting the sewing/knitting and crafts class on a Thursday night from 7-8pm. This is open to all age groups and we need volunteers who are willing to give up an hour to pass on their skills in crochet and patchwork or any crafts that you might like to share. Please contact Patricia O'Rourke [Tel:07712933854](tel:07712933854). Date to be decided.

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 13th 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.

Sick Visits Fr McConville will visit the sick of the parish as follows: Tues 31st Jan - Dromore

Thur 2nd Feb - Ballela