

SALT OF THE EARTH

MT 5: 13-16

When we want to praise a person, we often use the expression salt of the earth. We apply this phrase to people who make a valuable, but usually unseen contribution to the area or community in which they live.

We do not describe people who make significant donations to charity or undertake a project which is beyond the resources or abilities of most of us in this way. We are usually talking about people who quietly go about doing things which make a difference to other people's lives without drawing attention to themselves: such people are often surprised when others make a favourable comment about them as they assume that what they are doing is natural, nothing out of the ordinary, nothing remarkable. But if they were not there, the area or community would be the less for their absence, and as we know, often to our regret, it is only at such a person's funeral that we discover just how important they were to so many people.

Jesus tells his disciples today: "You are the salt of the earth". In this and some of his other teachings, Jesus suggests that the influence of his disciples is unseen, that they quietly go about their lives putting the values of the gospel into practice and in this way influence the people round about them. For most of us, this is the way we live our discipleship, not setting out to advertise our faith, but by explaining it when people ask. We do not consume salt by itself: that is not the way it functions. Salt disappears into whatever the larger mass around it happens to be and affects it, and very often we only notice it because it is missing – This needs more salt is a not uncommon comment in the kitchen. Perhaps we need to believe that we really can make a difference, that being a disciple of Jesus is not some sort of personal privilege or secret pastime but a call to put our faith, our relationship with Jesus into practice quietly in our daily lives and situations, and thus in some strange way, the salt of the earth may become the light of the world. ■

DO

Christian life is a balance between work and prayer. Consider whether there is any other way in which you can put your faith into action. If you are already involved in helping people, do you find time to pray?

SAY

You are the salt of the earth:
you are the light of the world.

REFLECT

There is a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty at the moment about the future of the Church. It is easy to fall into a pessimistic way of thinking which leads people to look back to the past, to imagine a Golden Age when everything was fine and flourishing, and if only we could go back to that, all the problems we are facing today would disappear. Others suggest that the church of the future could be a small group, one whose set of beliefs would be pure and absolutely correct from the theological point of view. But the church does not exist for itself: it is to be salt to the earth and light to the world. Salt is not produced to be hoarded, lamps are not lit to be hidden. To be a disciple of Jesus means being concerned with the wider world, with the social problems and concerns of the day, to be part of the modern world. We can only be so if we are people of prayer, as to be a disciple of Jesus does not mean simply to be a social worker. As Christians, our relationship with the Lord must be an important, if not the most important part of our identity. ■

LEARN

When Matthew uses the term men, he is usually referring to people outside the Christian community.

The word Torah, usually translated as law, has the wider meaning of teaching or instruction: Matthew is presenting Jesus as bringing a new teaching rather than a new set of legal precepts.

Paul tried once to argue with Greek philosophers on their own ground, but did not repeat the experiment: he then stuck to the paradox of the crucified Christ.

PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev Conor McConville PP, Tel: 02892 611347

Very Rev PJ Murray

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon

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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th February 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 5: Henry McGrath

Sun 12: John Fegan

John McAnarney Ballooleymore

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 5: None

Sun 12: Geraldine O'Loughlin

Breen Morgan

Hugh Eadie (Months Mind)

Sarah (Dolly) McGuigan (Months Mind)

Offertory Promise Collection £1149.55

Readers - Dromore

Sun 12: Ciara Cunningham

Collectors, All Saints – February

Bernard Cosgrave & Willie Doyle

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.

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

St Mary's Primary School Dechomet are hosting a 'Family Bingo Night' on Friday 10th February 2017 in Liatroim GAC Clubrooms at 7pm. Refreshments provided during what promises to be a great evening's craic.... Everyone welcome!

Parish Draw Winners Week 39

£100	Aishling McGreevy	116
£50	Maureen Beggs	112
£30	Maura Scott	493
£20	Kieran McGreevy	114

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 13 16 17 19

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

Next week's Jackpot: £5000

Club Registration Sun 5th Feb at 3pm in Club House.

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.

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.

Pope Francis invites us to celebrate St. Valentine's Day!

In his document on The Joy of Love (*Amoris Laetitia*), Pope Francis refers directly to Saint Valentine's Day as an opportunity to make the most of traditional religious practices, invite couples to grow in love and help their children to prepare for their future married life. This is why, as part of the preparations for World Meeting of Families in Ireland in August 2018, we invite you to mark this St. Valentine's Day in a special way. The WMOF2018 office has prepared flyers with ideas on how to mark this special day and gift tokens that you can give to your loved ones this 14th February.

These are available in each Cathedral across Ireland, Veritas Shops and Accord centers and can also be downloaded from the WMOF2018 website: www.worldmeeting2018.ie

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