



# LIVING WATER

JOHN 4:5-42

## REFLECT

Our Gospel readings on this and the next two Sundays are taken from the Gospel of John. They are especially relevant in this time of Lent as we prepare to receive new members into our Christian community at the Easter Vigil: The passage about the Woman at the Well illustrates the person who is introduced to the person of Jesus but has difficulty accepting the message. In the second part of the dialogue, the question of proper worship is raised, and the answer is that it does not require a special place, but rather the directing of the person's whole life towards God, in spirit (sharing in the gift of the Father) and in truth (being authentic, genuine). Maybe for us it could mean being conscious of the Lord with us wherever we may be. ■

For many people, coming to believe in Jesus is a process. It develops over time. The scene in today's gospel reading portrays such a development.

There are several surprising details in the setting of the story. Jesus is tired: we are not often given such everyday information about his human condition. He then takes the initiative when the woman approaches the well near which he is sitting. This in itself is unusual, that he would engage a woman he did not know in conversation, and she turns out to be not only a non-Jewish person, but also a member of the Samaritan people whom the Jews regarded as heretics or non-believers masquerading as members of the people of Israel. She is obviously regarded with disdain by the townspeople as she comes to draw water at the hottest part of the day, when it is likely that there will be no-one about. But it is to her, with full knowledge of her personal situation that Jesus offers living water.

We see how her understanding of Jesus grows as they talk together, this is shown by the way in which she refers to him. First of all, he is simply a Jew: then she calls him, more politely, Sir; from his insight into her married status, she regards him as a prophet; she might even be willing to consider the possibility that he might be the Messiah/Christ, but even though Jesus declares himself to her in the formula I AM, she is still left wondering. However, her sharing of her experience with the other townspeople brings them to investigate, and they come to believe in the Saviour of the world. The unnamed woman has to struggle with her understanding of the history, religion and culture of her own people which Jesus is challenging before she can accept the living water of his Gift of eternal life. But she is not hostile: she represents the kind of person who finds it difficult to go beyond the obvious or the familiar. The assumptions and prejudices of generations are not easily set aside, but Jesus gently challenges her (and us) to look at the way we think and to try to see life more from God's point of view. ■

## LEARN

The origins of the Samaritans go back to the time of the Babylonian Exile (587-539 BCE): there was an ongoing situation of hatred and hostility between them and the Jews.

"This mountain" to which the woman refers in the Gospel is Mount Gerizim, where the Samaritans had built a temple to rival the one in Jerusalem.

Eternal life really means fullness of life, beginning here and now, not after death.

## DO

Fill a glass with water: consider how water gives life. The message of Jesus has a similar effect on the human spirit, if the person will accept it.

## SAY

Lord, give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty (John 4:15).



# 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

## Third Sunday of Lent

### Sunday Mass Times

**St Colman's Dromore**                      **All Saints Ballela**  
Sunday 11.00am                              Sunday 9.45am

### Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

**Mon & Wed: 9.30am:** Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

**Mass:** Tues & Thur 9.30am

**Fri 9.30am :** Stations of the Cross (During Lent)

**Sat: 10-11am:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 19:** James Burns  
Brendan & Patrick McAleenan

**Sun 26:** James Meehan  
Jacqueline & Patrick McCusker

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 19:** Patrick McGreevy  
Michael Canavan  
Vera Downey

**Sun 26:** Mary Mulgrew

**Offertory Promise Collection** £1208.69

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 26:** Brendan McCann

### Recently baptised:

Alfie Davies

Jessica Anne Bramley

### Parish Pastoral Workers

The Diocese is planning a programme to train lay people as parish pastoral workers for the delivery of the following ministries: Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lead Communion Services, Bereavement Team, Baptism Team, RCIA, Visiting the Sick & Nursing Homes to meet the growing needs of individual parishes. This programme will include instruction in Pastoral development, Spiritual development, Human development and Academic development. Anyone interested is invited to attend a meeting in Newry Parish Centre **on Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30-8.30pm.**

### Whist

Whist will be held in St. Colman's hall on Sunday 19 March. Ladies to provide pastry are: Rosaleen Mulholland & Patricia McGreevy.

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### Parish Draw Winners Week 45

£100	Eilish McAleenan	293
£50	marjorie McQuillan	494
£30	Dan Brennan	106
£20	Carmel Hillen	581

### Ballela GAC

Pending the election of a new committee the lotto is suspended.

### St Colman's Hall – Refurbishment

**Hall Refurb Appeal - £3128 of £5,000 raised**

Thanks for your support so far. Please keep spreading the word by asking your family and friends for their support. Send them to [www.everyclick.com/stcolmans](http://www.everyclick.com/stcolmans) to help us. We don't want to miss the once in a generation opportunity to refurbish our hall for ourselves and our families for years to come. Let's do this as a Parish, for our Parish. Please donate what you can, and don't forget to Gift Aid any donations. Work on plumbing and heating has commenced.

### Parish Records

It is important that the Parish holds details of all members of the Parish. A full Parish Census was undertaken in 2007 and most of these details have not changed. However if you meet any of the following criteria we request that you complete a Parish Census Form which is available at the back of the church and return it to the Parish Office or place it on the collection plate.

- Joined the Parish since 2007 *or*
- Changed your address or telephone number since 2007

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

### Dromore, Annaclone and Ballela Lourdes Committee

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.