

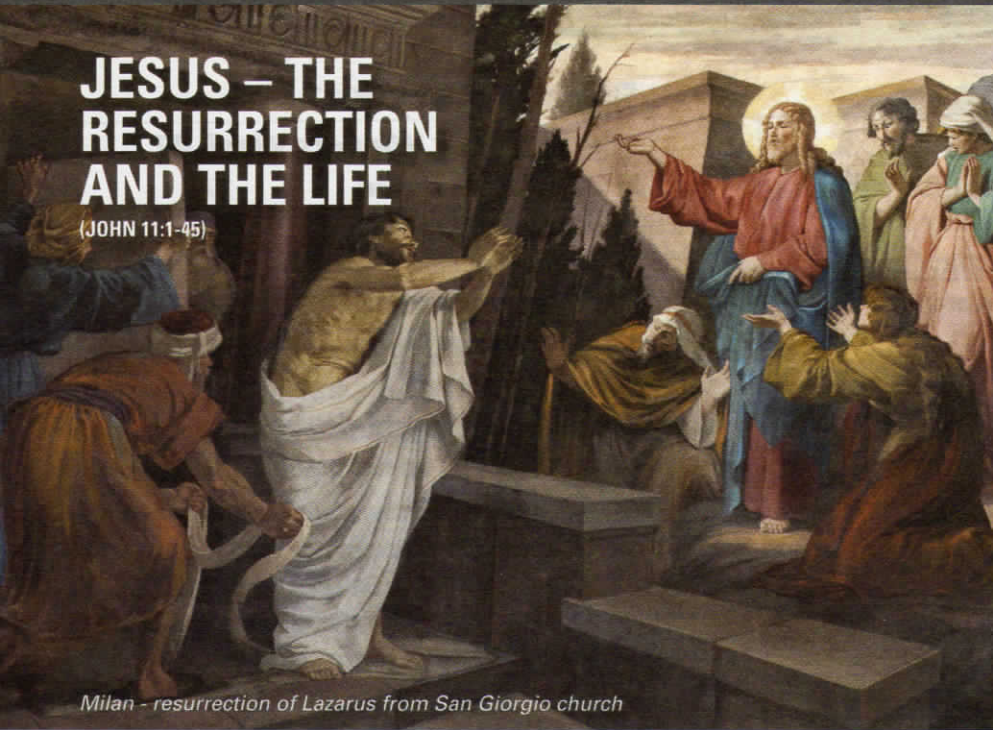
Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter week 1

JESUS – THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

(JOHN 11:1-45)



Milan - resurrection of Lazarus from San Giorgio church

“Lazarus! Come out!” This command of Jesus is the climax of the signs he gives in his public ministry. In the course of the episode, Jesus reveals himself as the resurrection and the life for his disciples, that is, for those who accept him and his message.

The fact that Lazarus is actually dead and not simply acutely ill, or, as the disciples think, sleeping, is emphasised in the story. It is at this point in the Gospel that the verb to die is used in connection with Jesus. The tragic irony is that it is Jesus' restoring Lazarus to life which is the catalyst for his own death on the cross.

In this story we are told of Jesus' human emotions: he loves Martha, Mary and Lazarus; he refers to Lazarus as our friend; he experiences great distress; he gives a sigh straight from the heart and finally he weeps. John does not usually present Jesus in this way.

In the Synoptic Gospels, the raising of a dead person would be understood as a miracle, an act of power. In the Fourth Gospel it is a sign. A sign is something which points beyond itself: so we should see the physical restoring of Lazarus to life as telling us something about Jesus. Martha accepts that Jesus is a rabbi from God who can perform wonderful signs because God is with him, but this is a misunderstanding. The evangelist makes it clear that the resurrection is not an event but the person of Jesus. The person who accepts Jesus lives in the spirit now and will live on the other side of death. The purpose of raising Lazarus from the dead is that the disciples should believe and that Jesus should be glorified. This will happen at the crucifixion, which for John is the exaltation of Jesus in glory.

There are similarities between the burial of Lazarus and the burial of Jesus, for instance the cave with the stone over the entrance, the cloths round the body and the face: but the differences when the tombs are visited are more important. They tell us that Lazarus was restored to the life he had lost, but Jesus is risen to a new life altogether. ■

REFLECT

In the Funeral Mass we find the phrase, “Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended”. For Lazarus, as for the other people Jesus is reported as raising from the dead, life is restored, not changed. Lazarus will have to die again. As with all the signs, this action tells us something about who Jesus really is. He is aware of the communion between himself and the Father and his prayer at Lazarus' tomb expresses total trust. He is the resurrection and the life for those who accept him: he is the one God has sent with full authority, even over death. The raising of Lazarus is the moment when the glory of God is revealed to the disciples so that they may believe. It is the beginning of the process by which Jesus will be glorified on the Cross. That is when he will gather all people to himself. The crucifixion we hear about on Good Friday is Jesus being enthroned as King and Priest. ■

LEARN

The body of Lazarus is restored to the life he lost, Lazarus will have to die again.

The body of Jesus is not discovered in the tomb; the differences in the accounts suggest that his life now is of a different order to that before.

We believe in the resurrection of the body, not the resurrection of the flesh.

SAY

“I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me will never die” (John 11:25).

DO

Visit or think about a cemetery. Remember that Jesus declared himself to be the Resurrection and the Life for his disciples. At baptism, we entered into that risen life: do you live as though you really believe it?



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

Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org

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

Fifth 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 2: None

Sun 9: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 2: None

Sun 9: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1448.58

Readers - Dromore

Sun 9: John O'Hare

Recently Baptised

Kian Michael McAviney

Recently Deceased

Margaret Mallon, Gallows St, Dromore
Jimmy Devlin, Hillhead Rd, Katesbridge.

Collectors , All Saints (April)

Noel Burns & Anne McEvoy

Do this in Memory (Week 8)

Will take place in both churches on Sun 9th April.

Dromore, Annaclone and Ballela Lourdes Committee

Next Meeting is on Mon 3rd April at 8.30pm in Ballela School.

The Dromore Diocesan Lourdes Executive are seeking Doctors to travel on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes between 17th and 22nd May 2017. If you are available to help please contact the general secretary at johndow60@gmail.com

Tea and Chat

Will take place on Sun 9th April after 11am Mass in Dromore. Everyone welcome.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited during this week.

Sunday 2nd April 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 47

£100	Margaret Sherwin	171
£50	Josephine Beyers	085
£30	Joanne Wilson	446
£20	Susan McCusker	320

Ballela Community Group

Meeting Mon 3rd April at 7.30pm. The two classrooms are now painted and the group have purchased new blinds which will be put up next week.

Ballela GAC Lotto to be drawn this Tuesday 4th April in the Club rooms at 8.45pm, jackpot £5000.00. Last week saw the club 2 games: Ballela v Ballyvarley 5.23 - 0.3 & U16 v Clonduff 11.9 - 1.0. This week coming: Sunday 2nd April U16 v Kilclief 3.15pm @ Home, Monday 3rd April Ballela v Castlewellan 6.45pm @ Castlewellan. Easter hamper raffle: Draw to be made after the first senior camogie match on 19th April. Tickets £5 each, available from any committee member.

St Colman's Hall – Refurbishment

Hall Refurb Appeal - £5613.90 raised

Thanks for your support so far. Special thanks to Dromore, Annaclone and Ballela Lourdes Committee and to St Vincent de Paul Society for their generous donations. A massive Thank You to all of you who helped us raise the extra funds we needed for our hall through your generous donations over the last few weeks. It was a big ask, but the incredible generosity of St. Colman's and our good friends in the community means we have a great new hall which we can all be proud of. Well done St. Colman's !!

Ordination to Permanent Diaconate

On Sunday 4th June in Newry Cathedral, Michael Rooney will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. Michael would like to offer an invitation to parishioners of Dromore and Ballela to the Ordination Mass. If you would like to attend, please contact Michael or Jill on 406 71401 by **Friday 14 April**.

St Vincent de Paul invites you to St Colmans Hall fundraising variety show on Fri 5th May at 7.30pm sharp in St Colmans Hall, Dromore. Tickets: Adults £7 OAP/Child £5. Tickets can be bought from SVP members at the back of the church after Sunday mass or ring helpline, also from Margaret Downey at St Colmans P.S. Dromore.