

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2

JESUS GIVES HIS LIFE FOR US

(MATTHEW 26:14-27:66)

The mob is notoriously fickle. At the beginning of Jesus' final visit to Jerusalem, its members were cheering Jesus as he entered the city: a few days later, they are baying for his blood. We talk about the mood of a crowd turning ugly, and there is no better example of this than the change in attitude towards Jesus.

Matthew's account of Jesus' suffering and death is one of his being abandoned. It is a bleak picture which begins with Judas striking a deal with the chief priests, and this sets the tone for what will follow. The mention of sharing the dish, a sign of great personal intimacy, only heightens the atmosphere of tragedy and betrayal. Jesus then struggles in Gethsemane with his destiny while his companions leave him alone, first of all by sleeping, then by running away when he is arrested. The members of the Sanhedrin stage a rigged trial, during which Peter claims that he does not even know Jesus. Judas is overcome with shame and remorse and commits suicide. The Roman governor, Pilate, tries to reason with the inflamed crowd then (literally) washes his hands of responsibility and orders the execution of the innocent Jesus out of political expediency, to prevent a riot breaking out. Jesus is insulted by the soldiers and those who see him on the cross, and the final abandonment is the worst: he upbraids God for deserting him in his hour of need. If we keep to the text as it is, without importing details from other writings in the scriptures, we are left with the distressing portrait of the Son of God whose dedication to the will of God has brought him to such a place. We should take his final words at their face value.

However, God has not abandoned Jesus. The Temple curtain is torn aside and Matthew reports an earthquake, the opening of the tombs and the rising of saintly members of the Jewish people. Jesus as birth was marked by the star in the sky, so his death is accompanied by apocalyptic events such as these. It is now, at the Cross, that Jesus can be truly proclaimed as the Son of God, as the Gentile Roman centurion and soldiers declare him. ■

REFLECT

None of the Gospel versions emphasise the physical sufferings of Jesus. The so-called Agony in the Garden is really The Struggle in Gethsemane, where Jesus again is tested as to whether he will be the true Son of God or not. Once again, he passes the test. The crown of thorns is an ironic symbol: the soldiers are consciously making fun of their prisoner, but in their sarcastic greeting, Hail King of the Jews!, they are actually getting it right. Devotions such as the traditional Stations of the Cross present us with the physical event: perhaps we might reflect more on what might have been going on in Jesus' mind, as the Gospel presents him. ■

SAY

"Truly this is the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54).

LEARN

Crucifixion was a means of execution by suffocation or asphyxiation: the person did not bleed to death.

The Gospel accounts of the passion do not highlight Jesus' physical suffering.

The women are present as witnesses at the key moments in the story of the passion: Jesus' death, burial and at the tomb on Easter morning.

The expression "to give up the ghost" comes from an older translation of Jesus' yielding up the spirit.

DO

Take your palm home. Spend a little time each day this Holy Week with it in your hand. Reflect on how it represents the self-giving of Jesus for our sake. Ask for the grace to be truly grateful.



PARISH OF DROMORE

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Palm Sunday

Sunday 9th April 2017

Sunday Mass Times

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

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Holy Week

Mon & Wed: Liturgy of the word - 9.30am

Tues: Mass - 9.30am

Holy Thursday : Evening Mass of
the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross : 3pm
Celebration of The Lords Passion: 7.30pm

Sat: The Easter Vigil: 9pm

All Saints

Fri 3pm: Stations of The Cross

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 9: None

Sun 16: Desmond O'Rourke

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 9: Patricia Wilson

Sun 16: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1001.62

Readers - Dromore

Sun 16: Katie Rice

Dromore, Annaclone and Ballela Lourdes Committee

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.

Trócaire

Please return all Trócaire boxes on Easter Sunday. Envelopes are provided with the boxes for donations as well.

Baptism's

As from May, All baptisms in Dromore will be carried out on the last Sunday of each month.

Parish Draw Winners Week 48

£100	Susan McCusker	320
£50	Brian McArdle	390
£30	Mary McGreevy	090
£20	Mary Burns	023

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 3 16 19 24

No £10 winner's Sellers draw: Ciara McCusker

Match Fixtures:

Sun 9th: U16 V Carryduff in Ballela 3.00pm

Monday 10th : senior's, Ballela V Warrenpoint in Ballela 7.00pm.

Wed 12th : Camogie, Ballela V Clonduff in Hilltown 7.00pm

Tickets are on sale for Easter Hamper, £2 per line or 3 lines for £5 available from committee or senior player's.

Ballela Community Group

Knitting and sewing class is cancelled for the next two weeks and will resume after Easter.

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**.

Variety Show

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 07738838187, also from Margaret Downey at St Colmans P.S. Dromore. All proceeds in aid of hall.