

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

## Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

### Sunday Mass Times

**St Colman's Dromore**

Sunday 11.00am

**All Saints Ballela**

Sunday 9.45am

### Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

**Mon, Tues Wed, Thur & Fri:** 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 23:** Jimmy Devlin (Months Mind)

Barney Doyle Kilkinamurry

Jack Cunningham

Alex McAleenan

**Sun 30:** None

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 23:** Margaret Mallon (Months Mind)

Ossie & Susan Smith

John Doherty

**Sun 30:** None

### Offertory Promise Collection £1213.15

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 30:** Anwin Robin

### Trócaire

Please return all Trócaire boxes as soon as possible. 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.

### Whist

Whist will be held in Dromore hall on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Ladies to supply pastry are: Bernadette Cunningham & Liz Cunningham.

### Parish Draw

The parish draw is an important source of income for our parish. The new draw begins on **Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April** and new members are very welcome. Please contact Mary Burns: 07917517520 or complete one of the forms at the back of the church and leave in the collection basket or at the parochial house. Cost is £1 per week and draw is for 50 weeks.

### Parish Draw Winners Week 50

£500 William Maginess 167

£500 Bill O'Loughlin 067

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 9 10 19 20

No £10 winner's Sellers draw: Kathleen Doyle

### Ballela Community Group

As part of our "Adopt A Spot" the group have organised a litter pick on sat 6<sup>th</sup> May at 10am. Please come along and collect equipment at the school and clean the litter up on any of the roads around Ballela. We will be issuing certificates especially to our younger members to show they have participated in a community event.

### Variety Show

St Vincent de Paul invites you to St Colmans Hall fundraising variety show on **Fri 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Guests include:** Gene Fitzpatrick, Cow Pats, Gerry McBrien, Pauline Downey, Tara McAnarney, James Malcomson, Curran/Rooney school of dancing, Ella Scott, Hip Hop School dancers, Rory & Ronan McEvoy, Pat Rooney, Aaliya Caldwell, Peter Branker & Traditional Music Group.

### Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr Murray

Fr Murray is sadly leaving us and to acknowledge his time here we will be having a Thanksgiving mass in St Colmans at 11am on **Sun 30<sup>th</sup> April**. We would like all parishioners to join us afterwards for refreshments in the hall.

### Easter Holidays

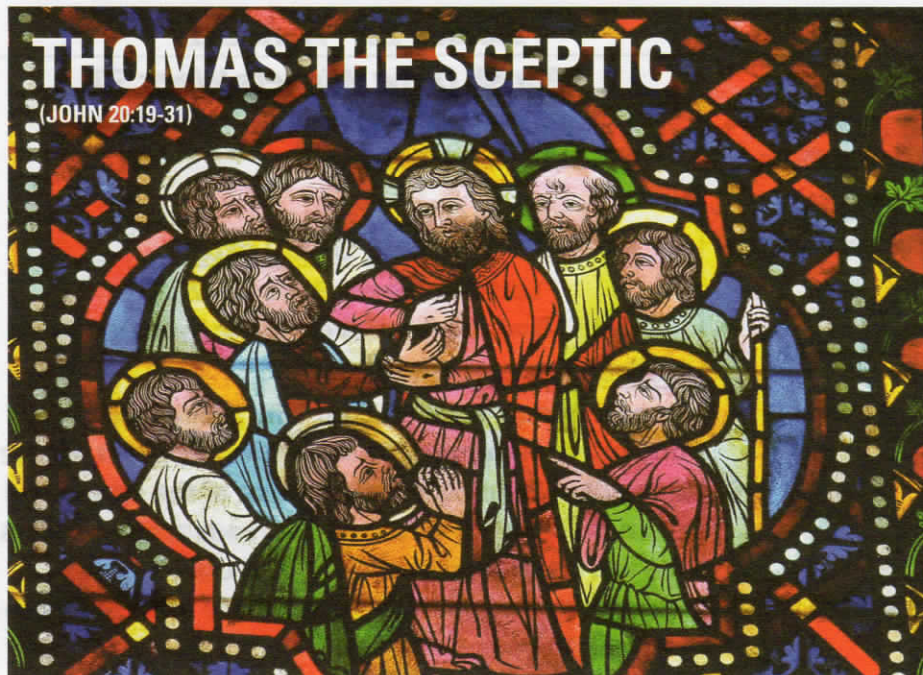
Fr Conor will be away from **Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April** until **Fri 28<sup>th</sup>** of April. Please contact Rev Frank Rice for any funeral related matters: Tel 07746842977.

For urgent sick calls contact Fr Peter McNeill: 02840650207 or 07969403762.

# Sunday Message

## THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: White • Psalter week 2



## THOMAS THE SCEPTIC

(JOHN 20:19-31)

Stained glass window depicting Jesus and the apostles in the cathedral of Leon, Castille and Leon, Spain. Thomas the Apostle touches Jesus' wound.

### Thomas the apostle is an example of the person who never gets things quite right.

He suggests to the others earlier in the gospel that they should accompany Jesus to Judea and die with him: he misunderstands Jesus' describing himself as the way, the truth and the life. In the episode today he treats the other disciples' declaration We have seen the Lord with a high degree of scepticism. But in fact, this is the correct response according to the gospel tradition.

Sometimes we hear that the male apostles were to blame for not believing the report of Mary Magdalene and the other women that the Lord is risen! But in the tradition, it is essential that the primary witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus actually experience the risen Lord for themselves. This is what gives their preaching its authority. This is the basis on which Paul claims to be an apostle, even though he did not know Jesus during his lifetime: he claims that he has had an experience, an appearance of the risen Lord on the road to Damascus, and this makes him as much an apostle as the Twelve. Their preaching then is not based on hearsay. We might note that here, Thomas does not accept the word of the male disciples any more than the Twelve accepted the word of the women in the other accounts. After Paul's experience, there are no further appearances of Jesus: from now others will have to come to believe by accepting the testimony handed down by the word which is preached. And so, the final saying of Jesus is the Johannine Beatitude: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is one who acts: the disciples have no share in his ministry. They are not sent out until this encounter with the risen Jesus. This is the point where they become apostles. This is Pentecost in the Fourth Gospel, when Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples for their mission. They will now continue his work, the mission he received from the Father. ■

## REFLECT

It is perhaps more accurate to describe Thomas as sceptical rather than as doubtful. As a character in the story, he enables the evangelist to address the question of whether those who had these special experiences of the risen Jesus are specially blessed over those who have not. The answer is definitely "No". We might note that although Jesus offers Thomas tangible proof, the apostle does not touch his hands or side, but simply makes the supreme confession of who Jesus really is: "My Lord and my God".

The Johannine Beatitude is addressed to people like ourselves: we have to believe without seeing. One of the ways in which we grow in our faith, our relationship with Jesus is to keep thinking about what we believe and questioning what we are told. In this, Thomas the Sceptic can be our example, and so we may deepen our own accepting of Jesus as our Lord and our God. ■

## LEARN

The forgiving of sins mentioned in the Gospel passage properly applies to baptism: the sacrament of Reconciliation is a later development in the life of the Church.

The liturgical greeting by the bishop is "Peace be with you": this comes from today's gospel and emphasises the presence of the risen Christ in the Eucharistic assembly.

For John the evangelist, being a disciple is all about believing: his moral teaching is summed up simply as Love one another.



## SAY

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe (John 20:29).

## DO

Hold out your hand with the index finger extended. Consider Jesus telling Thomas to put his finger into the wound in his hand and his hand into the wound in his side. Jesus does not call Thomas blessed for believing in him: but Jesus does call you blessed!