



*The disciples encounter Jesus on the road to Emmaus, relief on the baptismal font in the church of Saint Matthew in Stitar, Croatia*

**DO**

Take your missal and look at the structure of the Mass. In the liturgy of the Word, notice that on Sunday the first reading and the gospel share the same theme. The one should illuminate the other.

**SAY**

The New Testament lies hidden in the Old: the Old lies open in the New (St Jerome).

**LEARN**

It is more important that the disciples are walking away from Jerusalem than going towards Emmaus.

The Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) are essential to our understanding of Jesus and God's plan for us.

Pentecost is the final act of the Paschal Mystery.

**How can we encounter Jesus today?**

Luke is writing his gospel for the second generation of Christians who did not know Jesus in his lifetime. He uses this beautiful and well-written narrative to address this question which applies just as much to ourselves as to the community of his day. The answer he gives is that we can encounter the Risen Lord, and we do this through the sacrament of the Eucharist.

The two disciples, Cleopas and another who might be his wife, are walking away from Jerusalem. For Luke, Jerusalem is the focal point of redemption, it is the place where God's plan will come to its fulfilment. But the Easter mystery is not yet complete: Pentecost has not occurred, the

Spirit is yet to come. So the despondent pair are walking away from salvation. They are bewildered: they cannot make sense of what happened to Jesus, because they are aware of only part of the story. All they can give the mysterious stranger is an account of the facts. What the risen Jesus supplies is the key to Jesus' passion and crucifixion – the will of God as expressed in the Jewish scriptures. Throughout the gospel there has been a constant theme that this had to happen: "Was it not ordained?" He asks them.

When they are at table, Jesus performs the Eucharistic action of taking bread, blessing God, breaking the bread and giving it to them. As he explained the scriptures to them they had begun to experience a

burning feeling, perhaps of love, which culminated in their eyes being (figuratively) opened and they realise that they are in the presence of the risen Lord, that what the women had reported was really true. Nothing had changed except their perception of the person in front of them, but in that sense everything had changed. They return rejoicing to Jerusalem and rejoin the others, who confirm their experience with word of the appearance to Simon, the leader of the disciples.

We should perhaps note that the final line of the story should read: "how he had made himself known to them in the breaking of bread". In the bible, God or the risen Jesus make themselves known to people: human beings do not discover God. ■

**REFLECT**

Our ideas of Gospel scenes are often coloured by pictures we have looked at. Traditional visual presentations of the Emmaus episode show Jesus with two male disciples, but there is nothing in the original text to say that this must be the case. The remark about foolish men can just as well be rendered foolish people. One of the women mentioned at the crucifixion

in John is Mary the wife of Clopas, so the suggestion of the two at Emmaus being Cleopas and his wife is not impossible. In his Gospel, Luke has given a prominent place to women and mentioned them as companions of Jesus in his travels.

In the book of Acts (Ch 8), Luke gives a complementary story about the Ethiopian official, and there we find the same elements, the Jewish scriptures, the details about the suffering Jesus

and a sacramental encounter, this time baptism.

So how do we encounter the risen Lord today? In the sacraments. In the Mass we celebrate the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist and when we come together the Lord is present among us. The lesson of Emmaus is that the Lord is present: we do not need to see him. ■

# PARISH OF DROMORE

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## Third Sunday of Easter

### Sunday Mass Times

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

### Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

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

**Tues & Thur:** Mass 9.30am

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 30:** None

**Sun 7:** James, Rose & John Savage  
Barney & Myrtle McCusker  
Willie & Kathleen Rooney

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 30:** Gerard & Maura Eadie

**Sun 7:** Larry McGrath

**Offertory Promise Collection** £971.05

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 7:** Caroline Rooney

### Recently Baptised

Iona Patricia Doran  
Evie Patricia Kirk-Wilson  
Alfie Ben Carson

### Parish Draw

The parish draw is an important source of income for our parish. The new draw began on **Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April**, 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 for 50 weeks.

### NI Blood Transfusion Service

The next Blood donation session will be held in Cathedral Church Hall, Dromore on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May 2pm-4pm & 5.15pm – 8pm.

### St Colmans hall – Refurbishment

Thank you to St Colmans P.S, Dromore for a generous donation of £210.

### Sick Visits

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

### Collectors, Ballela – May

Gary Doyle & Paul Rooney

## Sunday 30th April 2017

### Parish Draw Winners Week 1

£100	Bridget McGarrell	075
£50	Danielle McCrory	054
£30	Patrick Kelly	231
£20	Hugh Pat McCusker	295

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 7 15 20 21

£10 winner's: Colin Copeland & Sinead Burns

Sellers draw: Sean Burns.

Results: seniors, Ballela 2-11 Carryduff 0-10  
Seniors V Ballycran, Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May, at home 7.30pm.  
Camogie- away to Portaferry Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm

**Ballela Community Group** The group have organised a litter pick on sat 6<sup>th</sup> May at 10am. 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.

Please note admission is by **Ticket Only**.

### Do This Memory

Will take place in both churches today.

### Lourdes Committee

Mass in Ballela on **Wednesday 10th May @7.30** for all sick and pilgrims travelling to Lourdes. Annual Lourdes church door collection will be on **Sunday 14th May**. There will be a basket for anyone wishing to send petitions to Lourdes. Anyone attending other Parishes on that date can give their donation to any member of the Lourdes committee.