

JESUS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

(JOHN 14:1-12)



The end of Jesus' ministry and his physical presence among his disciples is coming to an end. In today's passage from the Gospel, he is talking to the disciples about his leaving them by way of the cross, but assuring them that this is not the end of the story.

Jesus is the Word of God become flesh. He is in himself the revelation of God, not simply by what he says and does but also by who he is. In this sense, to see him is to see the Father. The purpose of God's self-revealing is to offer human beings perpetual communion with God. The rooms which Jesus goes to prepare through his being glorified on the cross represent this everlasting relationship. Jesus is the way to the Father because he is God's self-revelation (the truth), and he is the life. Whoever chooses Jesus chooses God, truth over falsehood, life over death. The urgency of making this choice is expressed by Jesus' saying no-one can come to the Father except through me. The writer of the Fourth Gospel does not subscribe to the notion that we're all going the same way, aren't we? For a disciple, a life of faith and trust is the only way to union with the Father.

Thomas and Philip ask questions which allow Jesus (or the evangelist) to clarify and develop the ideas in the passage. Philip had earlier wondered whether Jesus would be able to satisfy the crowd at the sign of the Feeding, which goes beyond physical need to the deepest longings of the human spirit. Here he expressed the same desire, to see the Father. Jesus' immediate reaction is to be exasperated with his obtuse disciple who has spent all this time with him but failed to grasp who Jesus really is, so Jesus goes on to explain. Jesus' oneness with the Father should be evident from the signs he has given, especially, we might think, the raising of Lazarus. Jesus' departure will not be the end of his works: he will be present in the works performed by his disciples. ■

LEARN

The word rooms suggests a permanent dwelling with the Father.

Jesus is the Way for his disciples: that does not mean that there are no other ways to God.

The verb to see can also mean to experience: to see Jesus is to come into the presence of the Father.

DO

As you travel around town, look at the road. Where is it taking you? Think of Jesus as your Way to union with God, remembering that you are on a journey, not a conveyor belt.



REFLECT

I don't understand it, but I love it!" This remark probably finds an echo in the heart of many people who read the Gospel of John. It is not a narrative like that of Mark which someone can read at one sitting. It has been described as a Gospel of prayer, in the sense that it requires a more contemplative approach, where we take our time over the various sections and ponder what they might mean: we should ask ourselves what they mean for us personally, because when the gospel writer presents Jesus as speaking to one or other of his disciples, he really has ourselves in mind. Thomas and Philip are speaking for us, articulating the questions we maybe are wondering about. The purpose of any drama is to draw us into the action: we might try imagining ourselves as being part of the gospel drama, because the evangelist wants us to be involved, and not merely spectators.

As we are coming to the end of the Easter season, we are invited to start thinking about the departure of Jesus which will allow him to be present with us in a different way. ■

SAY

May your love be upon us, O Lord, As we place all our hope in you (Psalm 32:22).

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Fifth 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 14: None

Sun 21: Jimmy Cosgrave

Mary Alice McEvoy

Claire Priestley

June McGrath

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 14: Anne Prentice MM

Johnnie prentice

Richard Catney

Kathleen McCrory

William John Mulgrew

Philip Reid

Sun 21: Jack & Jim Moreland

Jim & Sally Cunningham

Offertory Promise Collection £1370.77

Readers - Dromore

Sun 21: Colin Skillen

Cemetery Mass

Dromore - Sun 11th June 3.00pm

Kilwarin - Sun 11th June 6pm

Banbridge - Thur 15th June 7.30pm

Ballela - Sun 18th June 3pm

Do This In Memory

Will take place on Sun 21st May in Both Churches.

Whist

Will take place in St Colmans Hall Dromore on Sun 21st May. Ladies to supply pastry: Caroline Rooney & Deirdre Downey

Tea & Chat

There will be Tea & Chat in St Colmans Hall Dromore after mass next Sunday 21st May. Everyone Welcome.

Sunday 14th May 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week

£100	Betty McClure	143
£50	Ruairi & Ursula McGrath	195
£30	Ciara, Stephen & Laura Higgins	569
£20	Deirdre Rice	005

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 3 5 17 18

No £10 winner's, Sellers draw: Sean Burns

Results: Senior's Ballela 4-19, Breadgh 2-22

Senior's: Away to Ballyvarley Mon 15th at 7.30pm

Camogie: Home, Mon 15th 7.30pm Ballela V Liatroim

Tractor Run will take place on Sun 25th June.

Ballela Community Group

To celebrate the First Holy Communion of Oran & Ned we will be having refreshments in the Ballela school after 9.45am Mass. Everyone welcome. This will be a chance for the parishioners to see the newly refurbished classrooms.

Meeting: **Mon 15th May** at 7.30pm

Lourdes Committee

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.

Saint Vincent de Paul society

Would like to thank everyone who supported or helped in any way make our Hall Fund Raising Concert such a great success. Total raised was almost £2,500. We hope to organise a similar event in the near future.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Mon 15th May at 7pm: an historical outing to Dromore, organised by Fr Andrew McMahan and meeting within the Church of Ireland Cathedral for a guided tour in the precincts of the Cathedral. A composite high cross stands guard on the Lagan bridge, St Colman's pillow, a hallowed carved and decorated stone is retained within the Cathedral. Parishioners are most welcome at this ground – breaking event.