

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: White • Psalter week 3

We return to Galilee, where Jesus' public ministry began and where his ministry will end. Or will it?

Matthew's account of the end of Jesus' earthly story does not mention his departure: the conclusion is rather his commissioning of the eleven remaining disciples to continue his work. As the glorified son of Man he has received (which means that God has given him) all authority in heaven and on earth, and by virtue of this he is sending out the disciples to make disciples among the Gentile nations: the gospel is not just for the Jewish people. They are to baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to observe everything that Jesus has commanded. Galilee is now the gateway to the non-Jewish world and the gospel is directed outwards. The mountain is symbolic as a place of revelation and emphasises the solemnity of the occasion. The disciples acknowledge Jesus' divine status by falling down before him in worship. Why some hesitate is a matter of conjecture, but often in appearance stories there is an element of the person not recognising Jesus straightaway.

The final promise brings back the name which was given by the angel to Joseph at the beginning of the narrative. Jesus was to be called Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us. This name does not feature in the Gospel after that, Jesus is never referred to in that way, but it underlies the statement I-am-with-you, and rounds off Matthew's book with a nice literary flourish. Jesus will be present with his disciples, not just the Eleven here, but all his disciples down through the ages, yes, to the end of time. How this will happen, Jesus does not explain: we simply have to take him at his word.

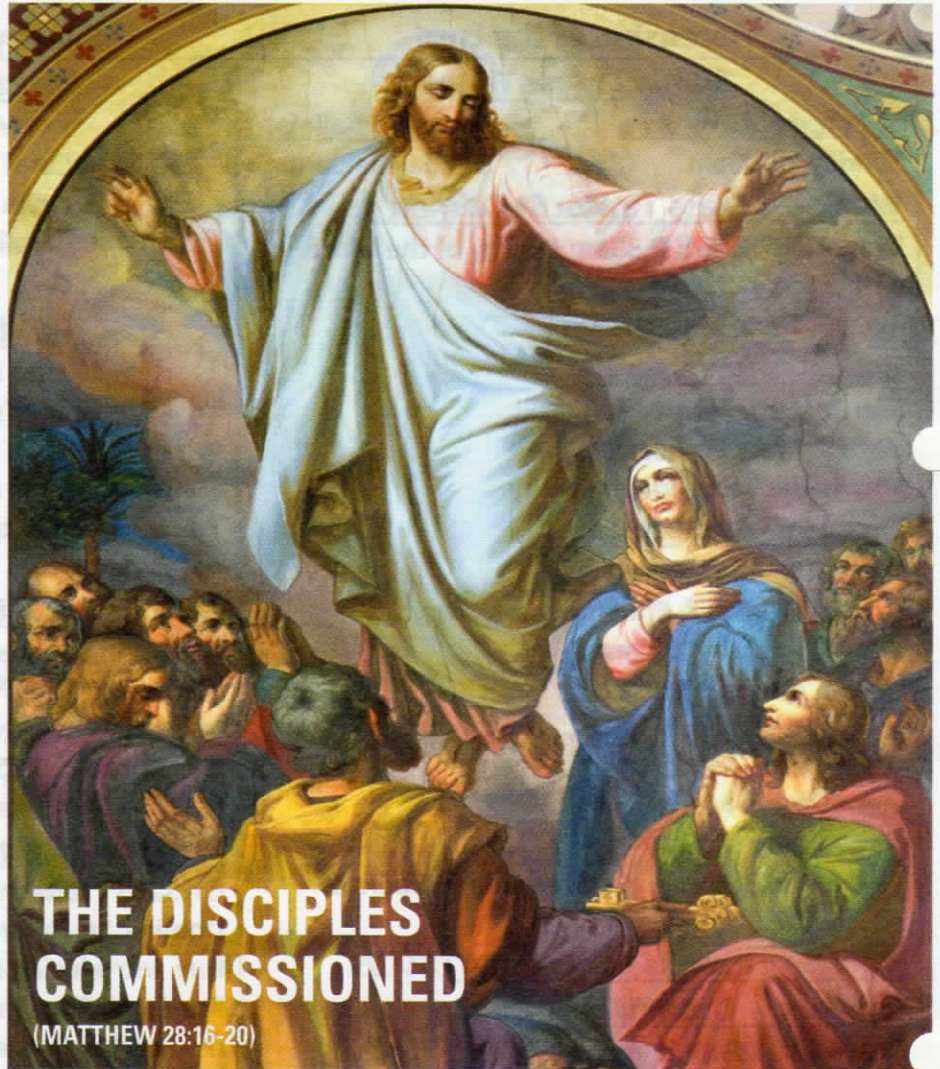
This is the final, the climactic experience which the disciples have of the risen Jesus. Its purpose is to inaugurate the mission of the Church. The preaching of the Good News is to continue, and those who accept it will declare this publicly by accepting baptism. Jesus will be with us in spirit, and that is the note of hope and confidence on which Matthew ends his Gospel. ■

SAY

I am with you always; yes, to the end of time (Matthew 28:20).

DO

Make the sign of the Cross with holy water and renew your baptismal commitment to the Lord



THE DISCIPLES COMMISSIONED

(MATTHEW 28:16-20)

REFLECT

Although we call today's feast The Ascension, there is no heavenward departure of Jesus. Rather, we have the sending of the disciples on mission along with Jesus' continued presence. The ascension as an event is only recorded by Luke in Acts, and its purpose there is really to emphasise the glorified state of the risen Christ: the Jesus who was laid in the tomb is

now risen to a new kind of existence with God. Even there, the ascension is linked to the coming of the Spirit. We can be led into thinking that Jesus has left us to return at some future date, but that would be to ignore the emphasis on his being Emmanuel, God-with-us, a teaching that applies not only to the meaning of his birth, but also to the true significance of his resurrection. ■

LEARN

The Trinitarian baptismal formula in the name of the Father ... reflects Church practice later than the time of Jesus.

Jesus' helping presence to the disciples is Matthew's equivalent of the Holy Spirit.

The title Christ is properly applied to the risen Jesus: it is not a surname.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Ascension of the Lord

Sunday 28th May 2017

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 28: Lucy McAleenan
Mary Frances O'Hare

Sun 4: The McCullough Family

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 28: James McGreevy
Francie & Philomena McCrory
Patricia McCann
Cecilia Mallon
George McGuillan
Tom Mackin

Sun 4: Helen Mulgrew
Mary Mallon
Dan Brennan & Deceased members of
The Brennan Family

Offertory Promise Collection £844.25

Readers - Dromore

Sun 4: Ciara Cunningham

Blessing of the Graves

Dromore - Sun 11th June 3.00pm

Kilwarin - Sun 11th June 6pm

Ballela - Sun 18th June 3pm

Please note there will be **NO Mass**, just Blessing of the graves. There will be a prayer service with Rosary and parishioners are asked to bring a bottle of water which will be blessed during the service and each family will then bless their own graves.

Autumn Leaves Dance

There will be a dance held in St Colmans Hall, Dromore in aid of St Vincent de Paul on Fri 9th June from 8-late, admission £5 to include light supper. Music by Chris Betts. Everyone welcome.

Parish Draw Winners Week

£100	Jim McCrory	360
£50	Carol Marks	228
£30	Kevin Mallon	478
£20	Caroline Rooney	082

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 5 7 22 24
£10 winner's, Liz Gibson, Patsy McGivern
& Coalon McGivern

Sellers draw: Gary McMullan

Tractor Run will take place on Sun 25th June, More details later

Calvary Omeath, The Rosminian Fathers

The Annual Novena in honour of Saint Jude will take place from Sat 3rd June to Sun 11th June.

Mass each evening at 7.30pm. Healing Mass on Sun 11th June at 7.30pm. This year our celebrant will be Fr Oliver Stansfield I.C.

Pentecost Retreat Day

On Sat 3rd June in the Dominican Lectio Centre, 35-37 Dominic St, Newry, there will be a Pentecost Retreat Day. Introducing the practice of Lectio Divina. Readings, Recognising, Resting in and reflecting on the Sunday Gospel. The journey with the word will conclude with celebration of the Eucharist at 4pm. Cost is £5 to include Soup and Sandwiches. Places are limited so if interested please contact: Lectio Centre on 02830262178 or email; lectocentre35@gmail.com.

2017 Guided tours of Newry Cathedral

Following the interest shown in the guided tours of the Cathedral over the past four years there will be a guided tour on Wednesday: 31st May – 7.00pm. The tour will take approx. 90 mins. Please meet at the main door of the Cathedral. There is no charge for tour.

Trócaire Collection

The total amount collected for Trócaire in the Parish of Dromore this year was £2893.67. Thank You.