



**RECEIVE  
THE HOLY  
SPIRIT**  
JN20: 19-23

Pope Francis administers sacrament of confirmation during Mass at Parish of San Cirillo Alessandrino in Rome

Today, we enter into a Gospel story framed by fear and unknowing. Not only has word reached the disciples surrounding the empty tomb and the disappearance of the body of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene has brought to them news of a risen Jesus.

They sit in a room wondering what kind of future lies ahead of them and without warning, Jesus appears to them with the tenderness of a loving parent. 'Peace be with you', he says, words that are familiar to us during our mass. Turning to our neighbour and offering a sign of peace is a tender moment in our celebration of the Eucharist. But the tenderness of Jesus in this gospel is borne out of consideration for his disciples. They need him now more than ever. They are alone in the world without their spiritual father to lead them. So Jesus does something that will become one of the most powerful images in our Gospels. He breathes on them. It's a hugely symbolic act. Remember, he breathed his last when he died on the cross. But John's Gospel tells us that his breath continues to live on even after his death. This breath is in fact the power of Jesus being handed over to the disciples so that they may find courage in times of despair, healing in times of sickness and compassion in times of weakness. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and the disciples will go forward from this encounter to proclaim the life and power of the Holy Spirit to the people of God. ■

### REFLECT

Fr. Kevin O' Gorman, S.M.A., is the writer of a very interesting book called 'Saving Sport: Sport, Society and Spirituality.' The book deals with many topics including how religious terminology is used to describe sporting events.

Even if you're not a sports fan, a useful task over the coming weeks as we enter into a busy football and hurling championship season is to glance at sporting headlines in our newspapers. Notice how many times you see the word 'Redemption' or 'Sacrifice' used to describe teams' performances and preparations. How often do we see players blessing themselves directly after the National Anthem is played and before that first whistle is blown? Or when a star player returns from injury, we say 'it's a blessing to have him/her back.' And have you ever noticed when a manager or player is interviewed after a game, how they talk about the 'spirit' in the dressing room?

For journalists and people involved in sport, the spirit within a team reflects a powerful energy that emerges amongst a group of players that is put to some good. The energy of this spirit is used to conquer difficult situations on the playing field. It galvanises a team to perform against all the odds.

The Holy Spirit that rests within our Church contains something of that same energy or power but in religious terms, the Spirit is also a person. When we gather in a Church building to pray and give thanks to God, we are guided by a Spirit that brings us together for one common purpose. To show Jesus Christ to the world. ■

### LEARN

As children making our confirmation, we read about the gifts of the Holy Spirit as part of our sacramental preparation. The gifts are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord (Is 11: 2-3).



### SAY

"Lord you have made us for yourself, therefore our hearts are restless until they rest in you."  
(Saint Augustine)

### DO

This week, let us renew our commitment to the gifts of the Holy Spirit by becoming aware of how we live out these gifts in our home, our workplace and our community. Practise these gifts with the same tenderness shown by Jesus in today's gospel.

## PARISH OF DROMORE

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### Pentecost Sunday

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4:** The McCullough Family  
Catherine Clements

**Sun 11:** William, Margaret, John &  
Donald McCusker

#### Dromore Anniversaries

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

**Sun 11:** Owen & Elizabeth Cull  
George Burns

**Offertory Promise Collection** £1003.60

#### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 11:** Claire Downey

#### Recently Baptised

Marley James Archie McGill  
Summer Grace Ann McGill  
Róise Mary Connolly

#### Blessing of the Graves

**Dromore** - Sun 11<sup>th</sup> June 3.00pm

**Kilwarin** - Sun 11<sup>th</sup> June 6pm

**Ballela** - Sun 18<sup>th</sup> 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. At both Churches there will be a collection; proceeds will be used for cutting and maintenance at both cemeteries.

#### Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited on **Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June**. Ballela – Morning & Dromore - Afternoon

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 6

£100	Geraldine Mulgrew	194
£50	Sheila Cull	361
£30	M McClenaghan	121
£20	Peter Mulgrew	045

#### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 2 7 9 15

**Jackpot Winner** of £5000 Cathal McAnarney

£10 winner : Courtney Savage

Sellers draw: Sean Burns

Tractor Run will take place on Sun 25<sup>th</sup> June, More details later

#### Autumn Leaves Dance

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

#### Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> June is a day of celebration for all of us in the Parish of Dromore. Michael Rooney, a native of Ballela, having successfully completed four years of spiritual and academic study will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by Bishop John McAreavey in Newry Cathedral at 3pm. We congratulate Michael and pray that the Lord will bless him, his wife Jill and family. We pray also that Michael's ministry in the Parish of Seapatrik ( Banbridge) will be blessed and that others will be inspired to follow Our Lord by bringing comfort and healing to those in need.

#### Lourdes meeting

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> June at 8.30pm in Ballela School

#### Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

Will take place on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> June, Buses leaving Lurgan, Banbridge, Warrenpoint & Newry. To book phone the parish office in Newry Tel: 0283026444.

#### Practice Nurse Margaret's Farewell evening

An informal evening to acknowledge Practice Nurse Margaret McKinstry (who has recently retired from Ballyward surgery) will be held in Drumgooland Presbyterian Church Hall on Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun at 8pm. Everyone welcome to enjoy chat & light supper.