



'I AM THE LIVING BREAD'

JN 6: 51-58

Pope John Paul II in an encyclical called *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* asks the question, "Did the Apostles who took part in the Last Supper understand the meaning of the words spoken by Christ?"

Perhaps not. Those words would only be fully clear at the end of the Sacred Triduum, the time from Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday morning."

So it begs the question, did the Apostles fully appreciate the words of Jesus in today's gospel? 'Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.' This is new language for the Apostles, language that will only really have meaning after the death of Jesus when new Communities of believers gather to remember Jesus and to consume his body in the form of bread and wine. This moment in John's Gospel defines why these celebrations will take place.

The Eucharist is the celebration of the most intimate of moments between Jesus Christ and his followers. The Jews ask, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' And this is an excellent question. But think of going to mass as a loving encounter between you and God. We will be fed 'by the bread that came down from heaven.' We will grow in love for Jesus Christ when we are greeted with the words, 'The Body of Christ.' We will leave this holy place feeling nourished and loved.

Like the Apostles, we continually grow in our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist. ■

REFLECT

Conversion and transformation are not easy. Ask anyone on the 12-step programme trying to stop drinking or taking drugs or gambling. There are always moments during the programme where the craving for a drink or a high pulls one away from the help that is needed. Ask someone who is trying to lose weight and has signed up for the weightwatchers or slimming world programmes. The chocolate éclair with double cream centre continually cries out to be held and consumed. It is not easy to change.

Bishop Robert Barron (www.wordonfire.org) states that sin is a lot like addiction. We find ourselves locked into a negative pattern of behaviour and we just can't get out. Most of us try so hard to move from hatred, anger or pride to something more whole and integral. Most of us are trying to move towards Christ. But it seems like a never ending task for us.

And yet, isn't transformation at the heart of what happens at the Eucharist. The bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ. This real presence of Christ enters our own bodies. And this presence of Christ within us has the power to heal us and change us. That's why we return to the Eucharist time and time again. To centre our lives in Christ.

This is the transformation that is at the heart of the Eucharist. It is a spiritual transformation that can lead us to living life in a new way. ■

DO

Make an attempt in the coming week to articulate what the Eucharist means to you. What happens during your short time at mass that brings you back again?

SAY

Lord Jesus Christ, nourish me with your body and blood so that I may become what I receive in showing your loving presence to the world.

LEARN

'The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life.' (Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium* 11)

'The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist.' (Pope John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*)

The mass is a memorial and the banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood. (The Catechism, 1382)

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Corpus Christi

Sunday 18th 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 18: None

Sun 25: Evelyn McAleenan

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 18: Dominic Downey

Sun 25: Agnes & James Gribbin
Nance Stokesberry

Offertory Promise Collection £1006.94

Readers - Dromore

Sun 25: Aileen Gracey

Recently Deceased

Frances Winifred Hartin (nee Magee,) Edenderry
Pk, Banbridge.

Blessing of the Graves

Ballela - Sun 18th June 3pm

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. There will be a collection after the service and proceeds will be used for cutting and maintenance of cemetery this will be taken up at the gates as you leave.

Weather permitting we plan to have this service outside in the graveyard. You are therefore asked to go to your grave on arrival unless otherwise advised. The chapel will be opened if you prefer to sit there during the service but you may not be able to hear the service.

Ballela Clean Up

Many Thanks to all the men and women who helped clean up around the Church in Ballela. It is most appreciated.

Lourdes Committee A limited number of bottles of Lourdes water available at back of church, feel free to take one home.

Parish Draw Winners Week 8

£100	William Maginess	167
£50	Andrew & Louise Stewart	038
£30	Ruby Wilson	564
£20	Brian O'Neill	183

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 3 7 10 17

£10 winner's : Shane Burns & Kathleen McCusker
Sellers draw: Anglers Next week's Jackpot £560

Tractor Run will take place on Sun 25th June in conjunction with PIPS as our supported charity. Registration will begin at 12 noon in the club rooms with the run at 2pm. £10 per tractor. There will be a BBQ along with tea, coffee & sandwiches, tuck shop and mini games. There will be a plaque for every tractor entered plus a refreshment voucher. A special plaque for Best Vintage Tractor, Best Modern tractor and booby prize for most dirty.

Tea after blessing of Graves

To show our appreciation to Rev Michael Rooney on his Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate we would like to invite everyone over to Ballela school after Blessing of the Graves in Ballela for refreshments.

St Vincent de Paul Annual Senior Citizens'

Outing Will take place on Sunday 6th August.

Booking forms will be available at the end of this month. Mark this in your calendar now!!!

Whist There will be Whist in St Colmans Hall on Sun 18th June. Ladies to supply pastry: Ethna Mulgrew & Dolores Downey.

Children's Liturgy in Ballela We are looking for people to help keep Children's Liturgy running in Ballela as Michael moves into his ministry as a Deacon. There are many ways you could help – setting up and tidying up before and after the service, sitting in the Children's Liturgy to ensure there are enough adults present and to help the children with their activities or being involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of the weekly activities. If you feel you can help once in a while in any way, please speak to Michael or Jill or give them a call on 40671401. Thank you.