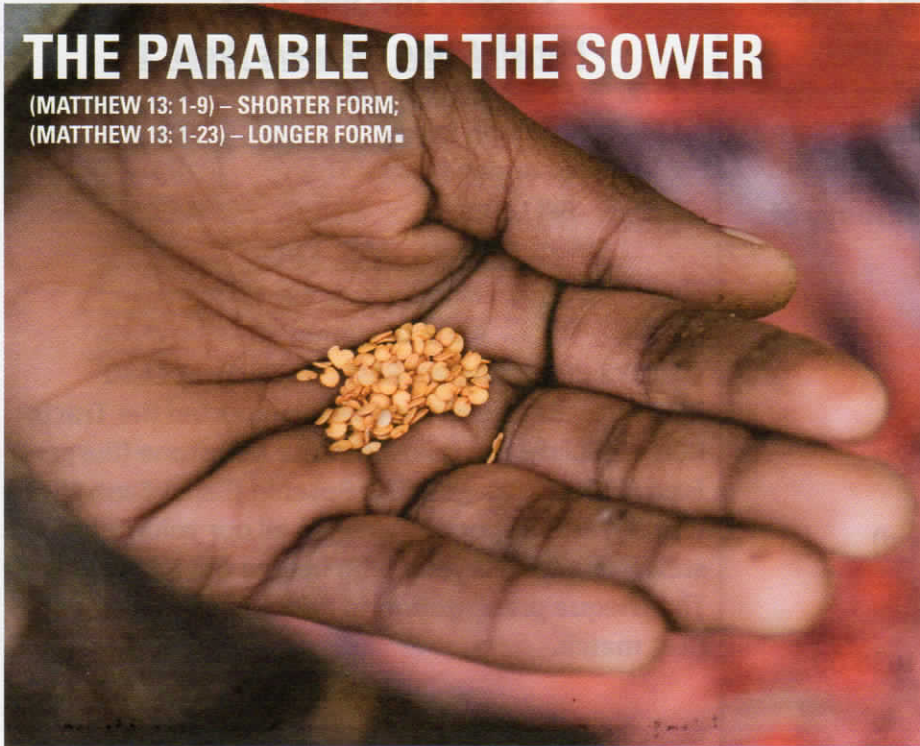


THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

(MATTHEW 13: 1-9) – SHORTER FORM;
(MATTHEW 13: 1-23) – LONGER FORM.



The first thing that may strike you today is the hunger of the people to hear God's Word.

The crowds have gathered in such large numbers that Jesus must sit in a boat. He teaches them using parables or stories. Bishop Robert Barron (www.wordonfire.org) states that poetry and story-telling are so important in trying to reach life's deeper realities. In order for Jesus to explain the nature of God, he time and time again turns to story-telling to teach people the deeper realities of a life in God.

The Parable of the Sower contains that inherent challenge for all of us to be good listeners and receivers of God's Word. ■

LEARN

'Both the Old and New Testaments are like a mirror in which the pilgrim Church on earth looks at God, from whom she has received everything, until she is brought finally to see Him as He is, face to face.' (Dei Verbum, 7)

DO

This is the year of Matthew's Gospel. Get into the habit of reading a single chapter every week. You will find yourself naturally entering into the world of Jesus and his followers.



SAY

God our Father, help me to hear your Word with an open mind and heart. May it bear fruit in my life and increase my faith. Amen.

REFLECT

One of the great joys for art lovers and even curious minds like myself is a visit to 'Musée D'Orsay' in Paris. The works of Jean Francois Millet is one of the many features there and his most famous piece is that of 'The Sower.' The fame of the art work increased ten-fold with its 'translation' by Vincent Van Gogh in the latter part of the 19th century. If you're computer literate, take the time to Google the two separate pieces and compare them. You will notice that Van Gogh's depiction has more colours but there are many similarities also.

Both artists demonstrate the generosity of the Sower. His satchel full of seed is resting on his left shoulder and you can tell by the extension of the Sower's right arm, that the seed is being spread generously across the tilled earth. The Sower walks with confident strides and is totally concentrated on the task in hand, spreading the seed. Since most of Millet's paintings depict peasants at work, we can presume that the Sower in this painting worked for a local landlord.

One can surmise that there was very

little reward for his long hours of hard work. The injustices against peasants are a feature of many 19th century French artists. However, despite this, the Sower continues to sow. He has an indomitable spirit that makes him good at his job and seeks little or no reward in return for his hours of labour.

Most of us have a great understanding as to the difficulties Jesus faced as the Sower of God's Word in the world. A lot of what he said fell on deaf ears and those who did listen, never really allowed the Word to take effect or change their lives. But Jesus never gave up in his task of preaching and showing God's love to the world. He is the ultimate Sower, the kind of person who continues to follow a path and seeks nothing in return.

We listen to the seed of God's Word each time we participate in the Eucharist and when we read the Bible. May this Word take root in us and effect our minds and hearts. May it not fall on deaf ears, for in sowing God's Word, Jesus opens us up to the possibility of encountering God. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Times

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

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

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

Tues & Thur: NO MASS

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 16: Mary Meehan
 Rose Rooney

Sun 23: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 16: Stephen Magee (Months Mind)
 John & Josephine Gracey

Sun 23: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1038.00

Readers - Dromore

Sun 23: John McKeown

Holiday Notice There will be no Mass on Tues & Thur of this week, instead there will be liturgy of the word with Eucharist. In case of a Funeral & other emergencies contact Rev Frank Rice on 07746842977

St Colman's Conference of St Vincent de

Paul Annual Senior Citizen's Outing to Carlingford will take place on Sunday 6th August 2017 leaving at 1.15pm. Application Forms are now available in the Church Porch and in the Parish Hall. Those wishing to travel should return their completed forms by 29th July 2017. Numbers are limited and will be allocated on a "first come, first accepted" basis.

Lough Derg 2017

You may begin the Tree Day pilgrimage on any day up to and including Sun 13th Aug. Advanced booking is not necessary. There are various travel options available countrywide, the Lough Derg team can help you co-ordinate public transport or link up with Pilgrimage organisers in your locality. Tel Maureen or Lorraine on 00353719861518 or email: info@loughderg.org

Sunday 16th July 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 12

£100	Coleen Biggerstaff	445
£50	Bronagh Brady	109
£30	Georgina Devlin	289
£20	Bill Lennon	443

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 2 12 15 22

No £10 winner's:

Sellers draw: Anglers Rest Jackpot £680
Many thanks to everyone who supported the Tractor Run especially the following: The Milestone (Burgers) Fred Elliott (Sausages) The Rosehip (Baps) Bann Hire (Digger) and a special thanks to all our volunteers, stewards and everyone who helped out in any way. The cheque presentation to PIPS will be made at our next match.

Ballela Community Group, Treasure Hunt

Will take place on Sun 23rd July at 2pm in All saints PS Ballela. Cost is £5 per person and children under 12 free. This includes afternoon tea consisting of delicious homemade buns, scones and sandwiches, tea/coffee. There is a Cash prize for the winner. We hope everyone comes along and enjoys the fun.
Next meeting Mon 17th July at 7.00pm

The World Meeting Of Families

The World Meeting of Families (WMOF) will take place in Dublin on 21-26 August 2018. The national launch of the event will take place in Knock on 21st August this year at the 3.00 pm Mass. Dioceses have been invited to nominate a family that would represent it at the ceremonies (not necessarily in a speaking role). The family could be a wide extended family, with grandparents, parents and children. If you would like your family to attend the Mass in Knock on 21st August as the diocesan representatives, please contact the diocesan office by email at bishop@dromorediocese.org outlining the family group you wish to bring. The family will be chosen in early August.