

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 4

THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

(MATTHEW 13: 24-43) – LONGER FORM

(MATTHEW 13: 24-30) – SHORTER FORM



Today we are presented with three parables explaining how the Kingdom of God interacts with the world.

The parable of the weeds demonstrates the good and evil that co-exist in the world. The mustard seed reminds us that our actions of mercy and love can have small beginnings but will grow into something much greater. The yeast expresses that the church is indeed very much part of a society that will contradict and challenge its teachings and activities. These parables also show that the Kingdom of God is very much alive and active in the world. Jesus never said that being part of a Church was going to be easy.

The Kingdom of God is brought about when we as individuals interact with the world in a spirit of respect, compassion, freedom and truth. Our terms of reference is Jesus Christ. We confront evil in our world and are challenged by it. We sow seeds of love and kindness that will bear much fruit in our lives and the lives of others. And finally, we are inextricably linked to a world that can form us and educate us. But this world also needs to hear our message of Christ's love and compassion for all. ■

LEARN

'Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching. Through his parables he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, but he also asks for a radical choice: to gain the kingdom, one must give everything. Words are not enough, deeds are required. The parables are like mirrors for man: will he be hard soil or good earth for the word?' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 546)

SAY

'Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others.'
(Rosa Parks)

DO

Think of something you can do for your parish this week. A visit to someone who's sick or living on their own is always a good start or maybe a phone call to your Parish Priest to see if any volunteers are needed for a future project.

REFLECT



Apple iPhones and computers have become the landmark and standard tools for the average internet user. There are other brand names of course but Apple seems to have led the industry with their expertise and brilliant innovative technologies. When Steven Jobs and Steve Wozniak invented the Apple Computer, they quickly realised that they hadn't the organisational capabilities to get the company off the ground. They had brilliant ideas but needed greater management expertise. They approached the President of Pepsi, John Sculley, asking him to leave his position and come join them. Sculley declined the invitation but Jobs and Wozniak were persistent. They went back to him again and again. Eventually Steven Jobs said to him, 'Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water, or do you want a chance to change the world?' Indeed, Jobs and Sculley went on to change the world.

This is the very task being presented by Jesus through three parables today. How are we going to change the world? When you think about it, it's quite a daunting task. We spend a lot of our days working to earn money, to support our family, to buy nice things, to pay the bills. But what do we actually do for the Church? Are we changing the world in the way we confront evil and injustice? Are we planting seeds of compassion and love through our actions and conversations? What is our response when society challenges a belief or teaching that we hold dear? When bringing about the Kingdom of God on earth, we change the world. Like the mustard seed, it happens one small step at a time. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Parish website: www.stcolmans.org
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Sixteenth 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, Wed, & Fri: 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word
with Eucharist

Tues & Thur: Mass 9.30am

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 23: None

Sun 30: Sam & Maisie Burns

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 23: None

Sun 30: Mary Murphy

Offertory Promise Collection £1106.67

Readers - Dromore

Sun 30: J O'Hare

St Colman's Conference of St Vincent de Paul

The Annual Senior Citizens' Outing to Carlingford will take place on Sunday 6th August 2017.

Applications close this Saturday, 29th July.

Numbers must be finalised by them.

So don't be left behind! Get your application in now!!

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

Southern Area Hospice Services

Have relaunched their Annual "Donard Day Climb" for Saturday 19th August at 10am from Donard Car Park Newcastle. Registration fee £15 and £40 sponsorship. Please come along and join us for this challenge. T shirts and refreshments afterwards. All proceeds in aid of SAHS. Contact James on 028 3025 1333 for more details.

Sunday 23rd July 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 13

£100	Martin Doherty	277
£50	Mabel McCutcheon	081
£30	Hugh Cunningham	032
£20	A Herron	244

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 8 9 10 14

No £10 winner's:

Sellers draw: John Doyle Jackpot £710

Next senior match: Thur 27th, Ballela V Carryduff at 7.30pm in Ballela. There will be a presentation of the League Cup and a cheque to PIPS at the match.

Ballela Community Group, Treasure Hunt

Will take place **today 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.

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.

Feast Day of "Saint Anne" Wed 26th July

The healing Mass, anointing of the sick and Blessing with Saint Anne's relic will take place in the Convent Gardens, Mayobridge on Wed 26th July at 7.30pm.