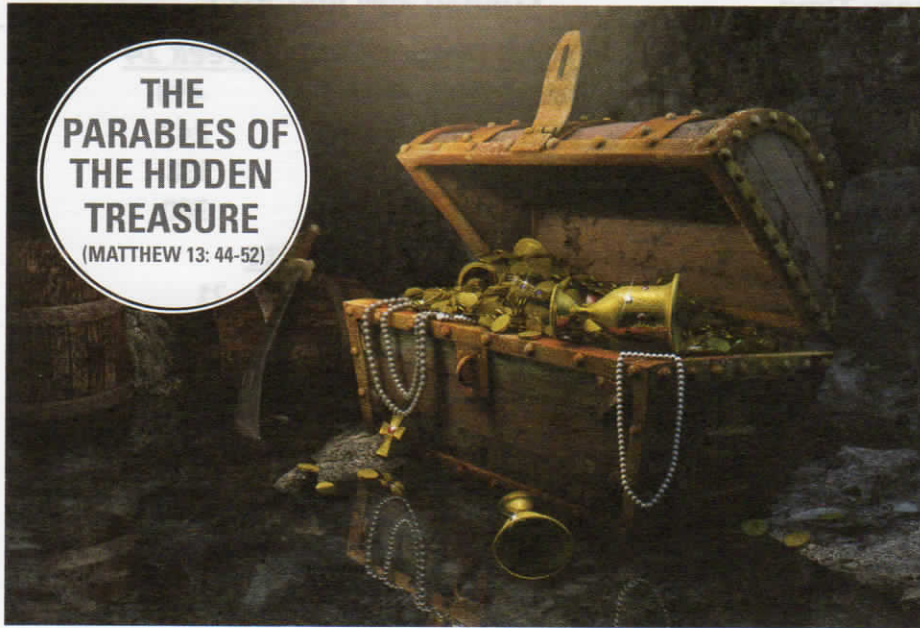


## THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

(MATTHEW 13: 44-52)



You might have noticed over the past few weeks, that the teachings of Jesus have revolved around explaining what exactly the kingdom of heaven really is.

We heard last week of how the kingdom will be challenged by negative forces in the world, forces of evil and destruction. Therefore, the kingdom as defined by Jesus, needs to be protected by us believers. The importance of the presence of God on earth is reflected in today's gospel as it is likened to treasure buried in a field. On finding the treasure, the farmer hides it again and buys the field to care for it. The kingdom is like a fine pearl or a catch of quality fish. All deserve our protection and respect.

As you can see, parables are used in abundance today. Writer and former priest Michael Harding says that 'a story is the most beautiful way of bearing witness to the world.'

You can see from the three parables used last week and the three used today, that Jesus beautifully presents us with the importance of the kingdom of heaven in our world and our lives. The parables reassert the significant relationship between God and his people. God shows us his love and tenderness. We respond by honouring the treasure that is the kingdom of heaven. We do so through our prayers and actions. ■

### SAY

'Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness.' (St. Augustine)

### LEARN

'The whole Church is apostolic, in that she remains, through the successors of St. Peter and the other apostles, in communion of faith and life with her origin: and in that she is sent out into the whole world. All members of the Church share in this mission, though in various ways. The Christian vocation is, of its nature, a vocation to the apostolate as well..... to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the earth.'

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 863)

### DO

Identify the treasures in your life, the people you hold dear to your heart. How much time and energy do you give to them in terms of your love and generosity?



### REFLECT

A man walks into a department store in Dublin to buy a romantic gift for his wife, as her birthday was approaching. He walks up to the Chanel perfume counter and asks to see the range of perfume on offer. The sales assistant showed him the first bottle, priced 75 euro. "No, that's too expensive, do you have anything else?" said the man. The polite assistant produced a smaller bottle priced 50 euro. "You'll have to go again, it's still out of my price range," said the man. Indeed the sales assistant duly obliged and reached down to the bottom shelf where she produced

a 20 euro bottle of perfume that probably wouldn't be the best quality. The man replied, "Listen, I need you to show me something really cheap." So the assistant reached under the counter and showed him a mirror.

It's important to identify who or what your treasure is in life. For some it's their children or spouse. For others, it's their work and I think in particular of doctors, nurses, social workers and carers who treasure their patients and clients. In identifying your treasure in life, you can then go forward and reward that treasure with your love and care and generosity.

The kind of treasure being referred to in today's gospel is the treasure that is the kingdom of heaven. So how do we respond to this unique gift in our lives? Are we reluctant to invest time and energy in fostering a relationship with God? Do we talk to our children about the importance of prayer and belief in God during moments of difficulty and thanksgiving in their lives? When Jesus speaks to the disciples today, he wants them to acknowledge this wonderful treasure given to them freely by God. In embracing the kingdom of heaven, we show a generous and loving heart to the world. ■

# PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

## Seventeenth 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 30:** Sam & Maisie Burns

**Sun 6:** Andy & Theresa McGivern  
Sid King

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 30:** Cis McGuigan (Months Mind)

Mary Murphy

Agnes Carr

Armelle Devonport

Oliver Eadie and Deceased Family Members

**Sun 6:** None

**Offertory Promise Collection** £870.61

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 6:** Katie Rice

### Collectors, Ballela – August

Sean Burns & Aidan Rooney

### Lough Derg 2017

You may begin the Three Day pilgrimage on any day up to and including Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@loughderg.org)

### Southern Area Hospice Services

Have relaunched their Annual "Donard Day Climb" for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Parish Draw Winners Week 14

£100	Colette Fitzpatrick	459
£50	Christine McDonald	247
£30	Peter McEvoy	398
£20	Jim McCrory	360

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 4 13 15 21

No £10 winner's:

Seller's Draw: Sean Burns      Jackpot £740

The senior Hurlers were presented with the League cup on Thursday night and their first match of the Championship is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, time and place to be confirmed.

### History of The G.A.A. Book

A group of Down Historians have collaborated on a new book concentrating on the history of all G.A.A. Clubs in County Down, past and present. The book will be available to purchase prior to Christmas 2017 and would make a perfect gift. Please note that all profits from the sale of the books will be going directly to Southern Area Hospice. Anyone who wishes to sponsor or purchase a £20.00 limited edition hard back copy, please contact Kieran Heenan on 028 406 31378 or [knheenan22@gmail.com](mailto:knheenan22@gmail.com)

### Trócaire Emergency Appeal

There will be envelopes and a collection box at the back of the Church for the next **two weeks** for those who want to contribute to the emergency appeal across east Africa where 24 million people are struggling to survive a devastating hunger crisis. Please be as generous as possible.

### Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited during the week.

### Preparing for marriage

We have prepared a booklet for couples who are preparing for marriage, this contains useful information and is available in the vestry.

### Dromore St Vincent de Paul

The annual outing to Carlingford will take place on Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Bus leaves at 1.15pm. Fully Booked.