



Over the next few weeks, we are going to witness some extraordinary events in Matthew's Gospel.

Up to now, Jesus has preached at length to crowds of followers about the kingdom of heaven and the responsibility we have as believers to bring about the kingdom here on earth. But today, we're getting a glimpse of something astonishing. As Peter, James and John climb a mountain with Jesus, the appearance of their Lord changes and his face shines like the sun, his clothes a dazzling white. This is one particular event in the Gospels I would love to have been in attendance. The true nature of Jesus is being revealed and in case there is any doubt, God the Father speaks from the clouds: 'This is my Son.'

Understandably, the disciples are terrified and the gentle touch of Jesus brings with it some peace and reassurance. I wonder was their first instinct to run down that mountain and never return? If you were to place yourself in this particular scene, how would you have responded? The disciples simply fell to the ground, terrified. Their reaction to what they had seen and heard is an indication of the truth of this event. Jesus is revealed as both human and divine.

Despite the dramatic way this message is revealed to the disciples today, they are consoled by the words of Jesus, 'Do not be afraid.' They look up into the eyes of Jesus and they see their friend. ■

**LEARN**

When the late Pope John Paul II found out he had just been elected Pope, the first words from his lips were: 'Be not afraid.' He then addressed the world by saying:

'Why should we have no fear? Because we all have been redeemed by God. The power of Christ's Cross and Resurrection is greater than any evil which we could or should fear.'



**SAY**

God our Father, I cling to you and I trust in your promises. You have told us not to fear and so I choose to hold your hand for I know I am sheltered by your grace.

**DO**

After today's encounter with Jesus, the disciples see him in a new way. He is both human and divine. He is the Son of God. Take a little time this week to reflect on your own image of Jesus. How do the Gospels shape this image for you?

**REFLECT**

The words 'be not afraid' are engrained in us as baptised members of the Church. As children, we grew up listening to Gospel stories read to us by our parents and teachers, where Jesus tells us to be calm and at peace, 'I will be with you always..... be not afraid.' It could also be said, that whenever we prayed to Jesus as children, we formed this trusting bond with him, where we believed in his protective presence. So it's little wonder, that as we grow up into adulthood, these protective images of Jesus never leave us. The constant refrain 'be not

afraid' is a hymn that is silently sung within us when we pray.

This refrain is what keeps the disciples firm in their faith and in their mission of preaching and teaching. It is no accident that Jesus' reassurances were repeated at various occasions during moments of trial and stress in the lives of the disciples. The disciples will have to delve deep into their well of memories after the death of Jesus, to recall those wonderful moments of intimacy with him, where he often said, 'Courage, be not afraid.' Let us take this refrain from today's Gospel and allow it to help us in our prayer and our daily lives ■

# PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev Conor McConville PP, Tel: 02892-611347  
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon  
Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish website: [www.stcolmans.org](http://www.stcolmans.org)  
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Parish email address: [office@stcolmans.org](mailto:office@stcolmans.org)  
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

## Transfiguration of The Lord

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 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 6:** Andy & Theresa McGivern  
Sid King  
Patrick Daniel & Agnes McEvoy, Kilkinamurry  
Bernard McEvoy, Coventry

**Sun 13:** Bernard, Mary, Frank  
& Barney McAnarney

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 6:** Brian Finegan  
Geraldine Mulholland

**Sun 13:** None

**Offertory Promise Collection** £970.09

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 13:** Niall Rice

### Recently Baptised

Kate Aileen Cosgrave

### 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.

### British Red Cross

Can you spare 1 hour a week or more? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair loan service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed. Contact David Moore on 02890 735380 or 07841727043.

### Parish Draw Winners Week 15

£100	Anne Mallon	043
£50	Veronica Moreland	435
£30	Thomas McClory	596
£20	Jack Doyle	339

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 3 4 7 19

No £10 winner's:

Seller's Draw: Megan & Daniel McGivern

Jackpot £770

The senior Hurlers play their first match of the Championship against Newry Shamrocks today 6<sup>th</sup> Aug in Mayobridge at 3pm.

### 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 today 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.

### 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 today, Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Bus leaves at 1.15pm. Fully Booked.