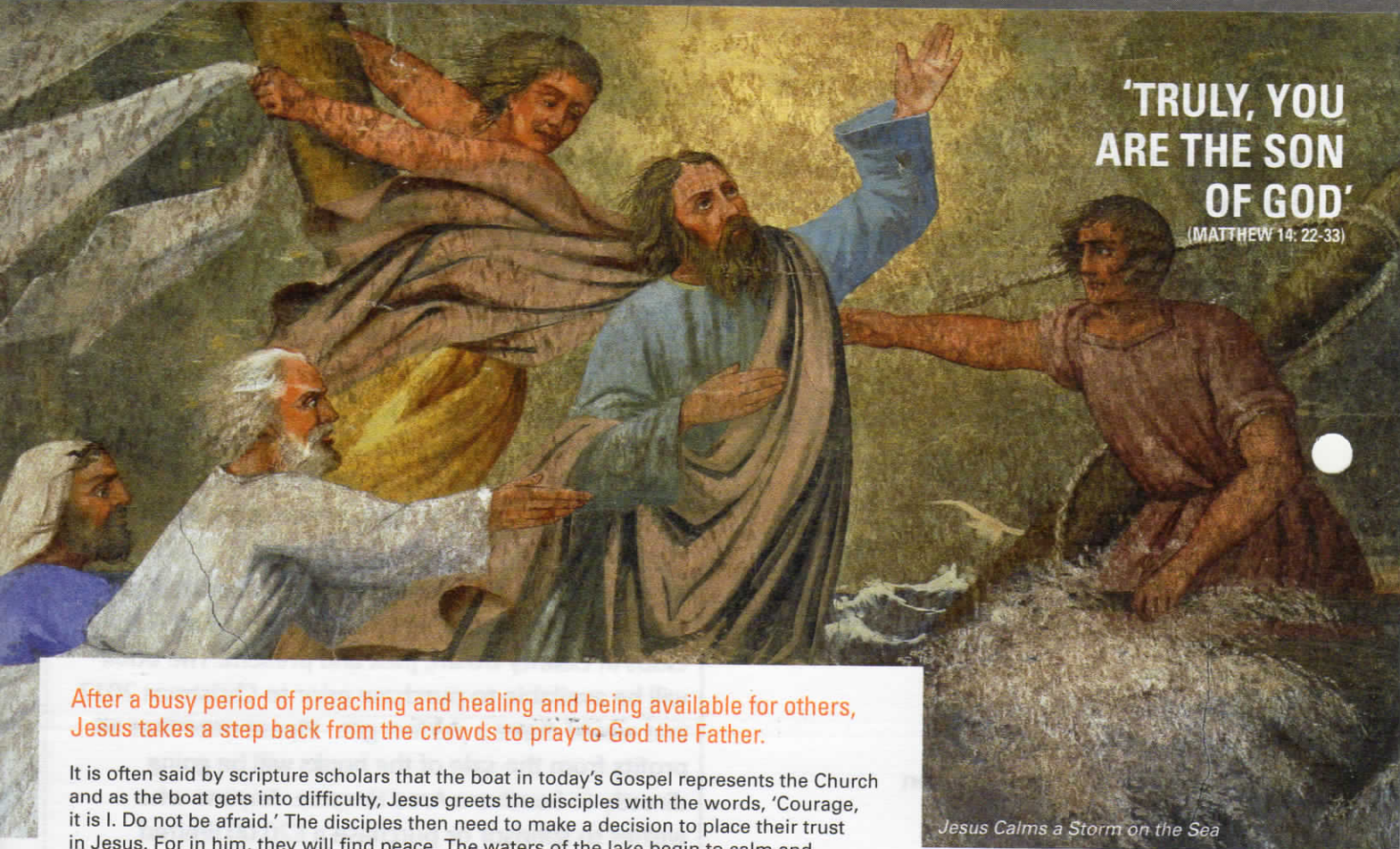


THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 3



**'TRULY, YOU
ARE THE SON
OF GOD'**

(MATTHEW 14: 22-33)

After a busy period of preaching and healing and being available for others, Jesus takes a step back from the crowds to pray to God the Father.

It is often said by scripture scholars that the boat in today's Gospel represents the Church and as the boat gets into difficulty, Jesus greets the disciples with the words, 'Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.' The disciples then need to make a decision to place their trust in Jesus. For in him, they will find peace. The waters of the lake begin to calm and the wind dies down. It is through the power of Jesus and his wonderful signs that the disciples begin to believe. This man is the Son of God. Peter is the person who refuses to wholeheartedly place his trust in Jesus. He thinks he's about to sink into the water despite the reassurances given to him by Jesus. But Peter and all of the Church are invited to reach out to Jesus in the stormy waters of life. We place our trust in him as a guiding and loving presence in our lives. ■

Jesus Calms a Storm on the Sea

DO

Since the gospel scene today is familiar to us, perhaps you can take the time to read the story again. Try to imagine how the disciple felt amidst the stormy waters and dangerous winds. Imagine what it was like when Jesus reached out to calm their fears.

LEARN

'The time would come when Jesus too would feel fear and anguish, when his hour came he was to feel the full burden of humanity's sin upon him Yet in that hour Jesus did not doubt in the power of God the Father or in his closeness.'

(Pope Benedict XVI, Pastoral Visit to San Giovanni Rotondo, June 2009)

SAY

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.'

(Psalm 46)

REFLECT

I remember talking to a woman a few years ago who only had a couple of months to live. It was one of the more profound moments of my priestly life and as she spoke to me, I think I found myself lost for words. There is very little to say to someone who has come to terms with their impending death. She spoke about her illness and her funeral like a poet would speak about the beauty of a partially clouded sunset sky. Her language was confident and filled with clarity as she explained to me that life had been good to her. God had been present in joyful times and darker times. She was not afraid. I went to her funeral and I wondered if I was ever in the same situation myself, how would I respond? Would I have the strength to place my trust in God amidst my fear and anxiety? I'd like to think so but there's a small part of me that's unsure.

Fear comes in many forms. For a lot of people with jobs, there is that niggling fear that the job may not last. There's the fear of not being able to support a family and make the mortgage repayments. Maybe there is fear of an upcoming result of a hospital scan or fear that a new relationship will not last.

We can be defined by our fears and they can grip tightly to the point where we are paralysed from living life. They prevent us from functioning properly and our motivation to achieve goals and complete simple tasks can abandon us.

There is a worldly wisdom spoken by Jesus today. 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' It's not just Peter who needs to trust in God's care. We all need to let go of the fears that cripple us. When we place them in God's hands, we can finally let go and live. ■

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
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Nineteenth 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 10am: Mass (holy Day)

Thur 9.30am: Mass

Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Mon 14th : Magheralin 7.30pm (Vigil)

Tues 15th : Dromore 10.00am

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 13: Bernard, Mary, Frank &
Barney McAnarney
Brigid O'Hare

Sun 20: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 13: John & Nan Rooney

Sun 20: Bridget & Patrick Johnson
James McGuigan
Ann Topley
Gerard & Maura Eadie
Séan Magee

Offertory Promise Collection £1181.67

Readers - Dromore

Sun 20: Anwin Robin

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.

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.

Sunday 13th Aug 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 16

£100	Teresa Hamilton	480
£50	Hugh Mulgrew	465
£30	Deirdre Moore	094
£20	Dominic Downey	155

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 8 11 12 17

£10 winner's: Caroline Connolly, Mary Burns,
Noel Burns & Brian McDermott

Seller's Draw: Anglers Rest Jackpot £770

The senior's next Championship match is Sun 20th Aug against Warrenpoint at 3pm, venue to be decided.

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

Lectio Divina

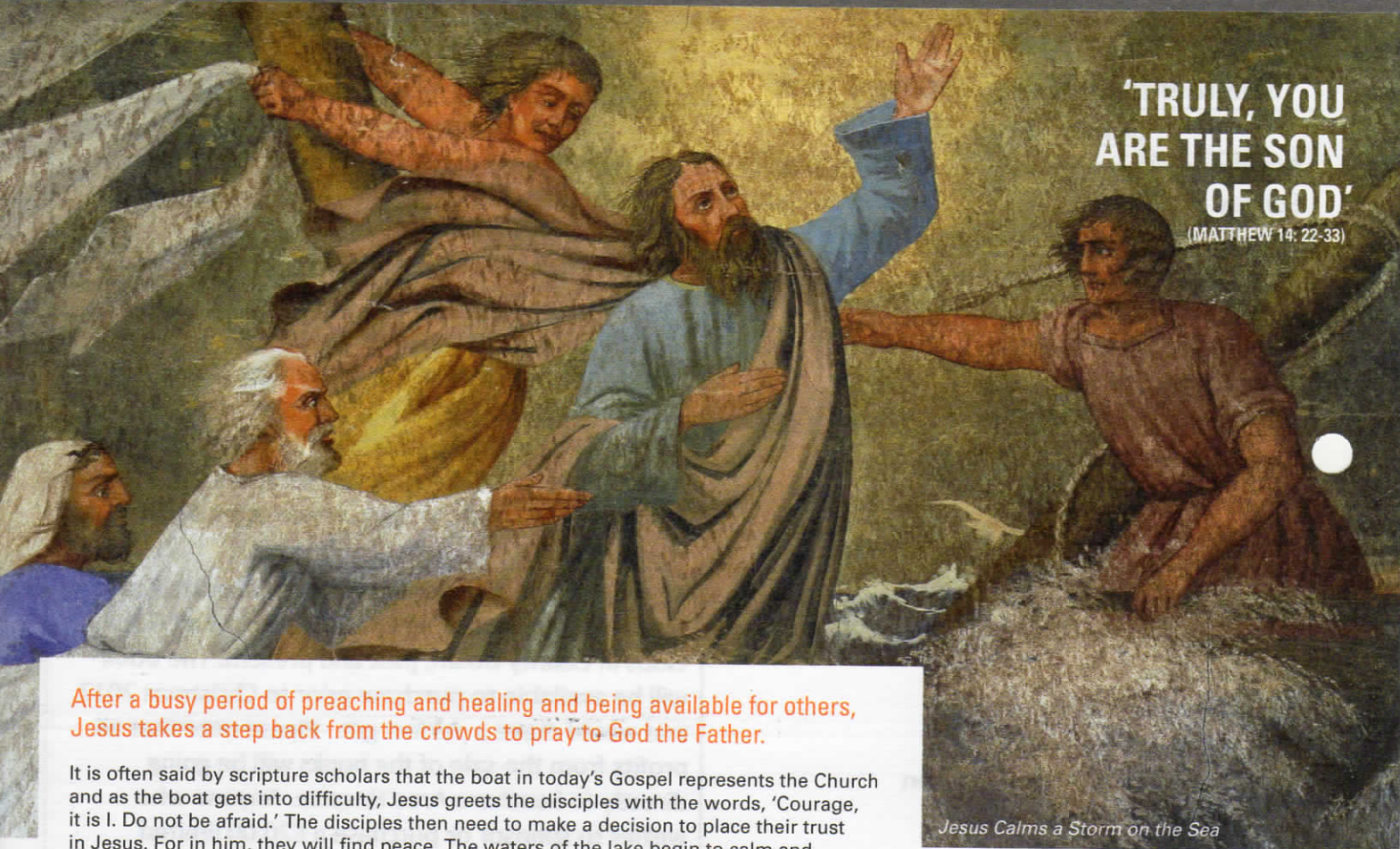
Fr Joseph Ralph invites you to come along to an Introduction to Lectio Divina, (Reading, Recognising, Responding, Resting and Reflecting on the Sunday Gospel). This will commence on Thursday 7th September 2017 for 5 consecutive weeks. There will be a choice of two sessions:- 11 30 am or 8 15pm. Venue:- Lectio Divina Centre, 35-37 Dominic St, Newry. Contact:- Lectio Centre 028 30262178 or email lectiocentre35@gmail.com

Sacrament of First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Pupils in Primary 4 & Primary 7, September 2017. Parents of children attending schools other than the parish or neighbouring parish schools who wish to have their children prepared for these sacraments are requested to inform Fr McConville as soon as possible.

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