



Statue of St. Peter with the key before the cathedral of San Pietro, Vatican City

## PETER'S FORTUNE

**A person's fortunes may change very quickly. They may lose their job unexpectedly or suddenly discover they have a serious illness which requires immediate and drastic treatment and their life is turned upside down.**

Peter the apostle probably felt much the same way: one minute Jesus is praising him as someone to whom God has revealed Jesus' true identity as the Christ, the Son of the living God, the next he is being scolded for getting the idea of Jesus' future suffering completely wrong. From being the Rock on whom Jesus will build his Church, Peter is now the stone which will cause people to trip and fall. Peter may well say, God forbid that this happen to you, Lord! But Jesus tells him that this is in fact God's will.

Several times in the gospel tradition we find teaching on taking up the cross and following Jesus. To follow means to be a disciple. We know (and most probably hope) that being a disciple will not mean that we will suffer martyrdom like Jesus or Peter or those who have literally given their lives for their faith in our lifetime. But to be a disciple means living by the teachings of Jesus, and this will cost us: discipleship will make demands on the way we live, the way we treat people and the way we conduct our affairs. Sometimes this will feel like a crucifixion. Peter tried to divert Jesus from the path that would lead to Jerusalem and the cross. He did this out of the best of intentions, not wanting his friend and master to get into trouble, to put himself in a situation which would inevitably lead to his death. But this was the cost to Jesus of being faithful to his mission. Our daily cross is to be faithful to ours, and sometimes it is harder to be faithful in the little things than to perform one heroic (and perhaps spectacular) action. ■

### REFLECT

Jesus calls Peter Satan. This is because Peter is acting in exactly the same way in which Matthew presents the devil in the scene at the beginning of the gospel narrative which we usually call the Temptations. There, the devil is trying to divert Jesus from being the Son of God in the true way which will eventually lead to the cross, but to take the easier way of becoming the kind of Messiah whom the people could easily recognise and rally around. There Jesus resists, using more or less the same expression we hear today: *Go away, Satan!*

In one sense, it would be easy enough for Jesus to resist the suggestions of the devil in that episode: it is clear that he (and we) know who it is that he is dealing with. Here, the text is much more subtle. The devil is acting out of malice: Peter is acting out of love and affection, but the result will be the same, the end of Jesus being truly the Son of the living God. ■

### LEARN

The devil, or Satan, is not a major figure in the bible.

As far as the biblical writers are concerned, human beings are perfectly capable of messing up their own lives without interference from any outside agency or being.

Peter, the leader of the Twelve, is a fallible human being.

The Pharisees are not mentioned among the opponents of Jesus in the gospel today or in the Passion Narrative.

### SAY

**For you my soul is thirsting,  
O Lord my God.**

### DO

If we think about Jesus being tested *rather than being tempted*, we might gain a different perspective on our efforts to be truly his disciples. It is not a question of *What should I do?* So much as *What kind of person am I?* Keep that in mind next time.

# PARISH OF DROMORE

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## Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2017

### 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 3:** None

**Sun 10:** Patrick & Margaret McAleenan  
& Deceased family members

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 3:** None

**Sun 10:** Vincent Gracey  
James, Margaret & Francie McDonald  
Dennis Mallon

**Offertory Promise Collection** £1066.10

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 10:** Colin Skillen

### Recently Baptised

Erin Mary Higgins

### Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

Ann Mallon invites you to come along and support "**The Big Red Afternoon Tea Party**" on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September in St Colmans Hall Dromore after 11am Mass – 3pm. Admission £10. Proceeds go to Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI research.

### Catholic Grandparents Association

Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage September 10<sup>th</sup> 2017, Knock Shrine 2.30p.m. Everybody welcome to honour & thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages.  
Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin  
- Ballina School Choir - Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'

### Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited as follows:  
**Tues 5<sup>th</sup>** – Dromore and **Wed 6<sup>th</sup>** - Ballela

### Parish Draw Winners Week 19

£100	M Haslem	425
£50	Pat Kelly	231
£30	Mary Thornton	452
£20	Maura Collins	439

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 1 2 16 22

No £10 winner's

Seller's Draw: Sean Burns. Next week's Jackpot £890

### Ballela Community Group

**Pilates Classes** are starting on **Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Sept** at 7.15pm in All Saints PS. Cost is £28 for 4 weeks. Class is now fully booked.

Next committee meeting Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7.30pm.

### The season of creation

Takes place between the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1<sup>st</sup> and the Feast of St. Francis, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Thousands of Christians will be coming together around the world to pray and care for creation.

### PRAYER FOR CREATION

God of the universe,

We thank you for your many good gifts –

For the beauty of creation and its rich and varied fruits,

For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.

Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted.

Transform our hearts and minds so that we will care for our earth and shares its resources.

Help us to touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all living things.

We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference.

Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species.

And help us to willingly share your gifts today and always. Amen