

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twenty Third 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: 9.30am Mass

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 10: Patrick & Margaret McAleenan
& Deceased family members

Sun 17: None

Dromore Anniversaries

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

Sun 17: Kathleen Burns

Offertory Promise Collection £941.66

Readers - Dromore

Sun 17: José Calixto

Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

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

Thank You

Ciaran Scullion has accomplished 20 years as organist in St Colmans Dromore and the Parishioners would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication through all those years and in many years to come.

Whist

Whist will take place on Sun 17th September in St Colmans Hall Dromore. Ladies to supply pastry: Ann Mallon & Deirdre Cunningham

Sunday 10th Sept 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 20

£500	Christine McDonald	247
£500	Attracta Herron	244

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 5 7 17 21

£10 winner's: Rory McPolin & Shauna Burns

Seller's Draw: Sean Burns. Next week's Jackpot £920

Senior Match

The senior Hurlers play Clonduff in the Down Junior Championship Final today in Downpatrick at 2.45 pm. Please come along and give the boys your support.

Ballela GAC Presents "A Night at the Races"

on Fri 29th Sept at 8.30pm in The Anglers Rest. Entry ticket £10 (Includes hot meal) can be bought in advance. Contact Gary 07709814562 or any committee member for sponsorship. Proceeds in aid of "Ball Wall Development"

The season of creation

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

Retrouvaille - A Lifeline for Married Couples: Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse? Does talking about it only make it worse? The Retrouvaille programme can help marriages at all stages. Next programme starts 6th – 8th October 2017. For information contact Tony & Anne (01) 495 3536, Mike & Anne (01) 450 0922, text or call 086 413 5440, or email info@retrouvaille.ie or visit www.retrouvaille.ie.

THE WORD

Year A • Season colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



HAVE YOU A MOMENT?

When something goes wrong in the local community, what is it that we as Christians should want to do?

The answer in today's gospel is that we should do all we can to restore the relationship which has been damaged between the individual concerned and the group which has been affected as a whole. Matthew tells us that we should behave as responsible adults: we should speak to the person concerned one to one. The purpose is to give the person an opportunity to admit their fault and to put things right. If the personal, individual approach does not work, then we should involve the wider community. The last resort is excommunication, treating the guilty party as a *pagan* or *tax-collector*.

The main point we might consider is that Matthew is talking about a *community matter*, not a personal one. It is up to the community to decide what to do. The power of binding and loosing is given to the group of disciples, not just to Peter. God will respect the decision of the group, because Jesus will be there as part of the process when two or three meet in his name to decide the matter. What we should be aiming at is to restore the relationship between the person and the church community: to excommunicate anyone should be the last resort.

This means that we all have our part to play in resolving disputes which involve our parish or diocesan community. In the Hebrew Bible, the purpose of a trial is to reconcile the parties: this means that the guilty person admits their fault and then the relationship can be restored or healed. Given the Jewish background to Matthew's community and gospel, that is what he has in mind in our reading today. ■

LEARN

In the Bible, the purpose of a trial is to reconcile the parties involved.

The purpose of such a legal proceeding is not to secure a conviction and punish the guilty party.

The wider group of disciples is given the power to decide on matters of church discipline: the power to bind and loose is not restricted to Peter alone.

The Petrine office of the Bishop of Rome is to be the centre of unity between all the local church communities.

DO

Is there someone in your church community who is behaving in a way that upsets others? What do you do about it? Gossip to other people? Report it to the parish priest and then feel that you have done your duty (and passed the buck)? Why not act like a responsible adult and explain to the person the effect their behaviour is having on others – they may be unaware of it themselves

REFLECT

An unhealthy and unpleasant aspect of the Roman Catholic Church is the practice, and in some cases encouraging, of anonymous reporting of individuals to higher authorities rather than confronting the individual in question. For over one hundred years certain people have taken it upon themselves to decide whether a writer or liturgical celebrant is outside the bounds of what they consider orthodox Catholic opinion or practice and to write to the bishop or a Roman Curial body informing them, but without telling the person concerned. Sometimes this information is taken at face value and acted upon without what most people would consider due and fair process or natural justice.

Our Gospel passage today is telling us that within the Christian community any matter which affects the life of the disciples of Jesus should be dealt with in an open, what we would call nowadays transparent, way. The person should be informed of the charge against them and given the chance to either explain or apologise straightaway, but not ostracised from the community without being given the chance to do so.

The word used of such a person is *brother* (and so it also means *sister*). Matthew is saying that there is a real bond between members of the Church: if this bond is broken, it is like losing a member of the family. If we try to put it right, then the Lord promises to be with us. ■



SAY

Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.