



VINEYARD FOR THE PEOPLE

The symbol of the vineyard has occurred several times recently in the Gospel readings. It is a common symbol in the bible for the people of Israel.

In the extract today, there are clearly allegorical features: the vineyard stands for Israel; the tenant farmers represent Israel's leaders; the owner of the vineyard is the Lord; the earlier messengers are the prophets; the son is Jesus. The context is Jesus' confrontation with the religious leaders of his day. The background is the common practice of the day of an absentee landlord leasing out his property to tenants and expecting rent to be paid in the form of a share of the produce.

The parable situates Jesus in the line of the prophets whom the Lord had sent to Israel and who were routinely ignored. It foretells the way in which the leaders of the people would reject Jesus and have him put to death outside the walls of Jerusalem. (The city would later be destroyed by the Romans.)

It is important that in these controversies, these arguments between Jesus and the leaders of his day, we hear the voice of Matthew and his community of Jewish converts to the Gospel and person of Jesus. These passages represent disputes between the later Church and Synagogue, and present all the characteristics of a bitter family feud.

It is vital that we keep in mind that the parable is concerned with the *leadership* of Israel and the need to replace its members, rather than with replacing the people as a whole. The vineyard itself is not to be destroyed but entrusted to other leaders. In this sense, Jesus' closing remark that *the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit* should be understood as directed entirely at the chief priests and Pharisees: it would then mean that the kingdom would be given to people (that is, other leaders) who would produce its fruit. Jesus was a Jew, and the Jewish Matthew presents him very much in this light. ■

REFLECT

The parable of the Vineyard has been presented as God rejecting the People of Israel as a whole and replacing them with the Christian Church. We might remember that Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Peter and the other apostles were all Jews. The responsibility for the death of Jesus lies with the leaders of the people of his time, not with the people in general then or the Jewish people since. We should not suppose that the Christian Church has supplanted the People of Israel: both exist in relationship with the same Lord and we should seek out and build on what is common to both in a spirit of respect and collaboration. The Catholic Church has in recent years made great strides in appreciating and making available to its members the Hebrew Scriptures which we call the Old Testament. We should be careful to keep in mind the background against which apparently anti-Jewish texts in the New Testament were written. ■

LEARN

The vineyard is a common symbol in the bible for the people of Israel.

Matthew condemns the leaders of the people, not the people as a whole.

The Church is not to be identified with the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is not to be identified with the Church: it is a mystery of which the Church is a part.

DO

Read the document of the Second Vatican Council *Nostra Aetate* on The Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions: or a book or article which explores the relation between the Catholic Church and Judaism; or part of a biography of Pope Francis which deals with his friendship with a Jewish Rabbi.

SAY

**We are your creation:
you are the Lord of all.**

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

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 8th Oct 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: 9.30am Mass

Sat: 10-11am: Exposition of The Blessed sacrament

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 8: None

Sun 15: Henry O'Hare, Aughnacloy Rd

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 8: Mary Murphy

Sun 15: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1358.10

Readers - Dromore

Sun 15: Aileen Gracey

Recently Deceased

Sarah McEvoy, Castlevennon Rd.

Recently Baptised

Seón Bernard Bingham

Do This In Memory, Enrolment Sunday

Will take place today Sun 8th Sept in both churches.

Shopping trip to Kildare Village

Friends of St Colman's PTA, Dromore are pleased to offer a shopping trip to Kildare Village on Sat 4th Nov departing at 9.30am arriving back to Dromore at approx 8.30pm. Cost £20 - includes a VIP discount card. Everyone welcome. If you would like to join us please leave your name and payment into school before Fri 6th Oct.

St. Mungo's 2 - The Umpire Strikes Back

St Michaels GAC Magheralin presents a 2 man Comedy play by the famous comedians Grimmes & McKee on Sunday 29th October, 8.00pm St. Patrick's Hall, Magheralin Tickets £15 Contact Fearghal on 07867 536478.

Parish Draw Winners Week 24

£100	Maureen Clarke	540
£50	John Mulgrew	138
£30	Josephine Mulligan	107
£20	Carmel Hillen	581

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 10 13 18 19

No £10 winner's: Seller's Draw: Anglers Rest

Next week's Jackpot £1040

The Club Dinner Dance will be held in The Anglers Rest on Fri 10th Nov at 7.30pm sharp. Tickets are £25 available from any committee member.

Via Wings

Via Wings are looking volunteers to join our fareshare food collection from Tesco. This is where Tesco give food which is about to go out of date to charities for distribution.

Monday or Wednesday evenings Each team goes once every 7-8 weeks. Contact Tracey on 07871 923664

Lourdes Reunion Mass

"Lourdes Reunion 2017 Mass in St. Therese Church, Scarva Road Banbridge commencing at 3PM Sunday the 15th of October."

"Lourdes Meeting Monday the 16th of October in Ballela School at 8:30PM"

St Joseph's Young Priest's Society –

Annual half day retreat will be held on Sunday 22nd October 2017 in Dromantine. Cost £10. Light refreshments will be available on arrival at 1.15pm and mid-afternoon. Mass will be celebrated at 4.45pm. All are welcome to attend. Contact Patricia 028 30821286 or Catherine 028 97562478 if attending.

Tea & Chat

There will be Tea & Chat in St Colmans Hall Dromore on Sun 8th Sept after mass. Everyone welcome.