



SAY

Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of
your Son

LEARN

The rabbis calculated that there were 613 commandments in the Torah: 248 positive (you shall ...) and 365 negative (you shall not ...)

The Hebrew word Torah is usually translated as Law.

The word Torah also has a wider meaning of teaching and instruction.

The biblical books referred to as Torah are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and include the narrative sections as well as the legal passages.

Many people probably wish that all the rules of the road could be summed up in one guiding principle which everyone could understand and live by.

If only all the regulations about which lane to keep to and when, traffic lights, overtaking (and passing on the inside) could be summed up in one short sentence, how much simpler life would be! Perhaps something like *Treat other road users as you would like them to treat you* would help us all appreciate that the Highway Code is not intended as an arbitrary restriction on personal freedom but a guide as to how road users can (ideally) co-exist and use their shared space in harmony with each other.

Something similar underlies the Pharisee's question to Jesus in today's Gospel passage. Is there any way in which the 613 rules of the Torah, the Law can be easily summarised? Jesus' reply is based on two quotations from the Torah, one about loving God (from Deuteronomy), the other about loving one's neighbour (from Leviticus). If these two are uppermost in the person's mind, then all the others will follow. They give the guiding principles: the others show how these are put into practice.

It is true that not all of the 613 rules were of equal gravity, but they were all to be respected. Jesus is not saying that if a person observed love of God and love of neighbour, then the other 611 do not matter. For Matthew, and the Jewish Christian members of his community, the Law remains in force, and this passage reflects the ongoing disputes between the Church and Synagogue of his day. The early community had to come to terms with the question of whether Gentile converts to Christianity were bound to observe the Law of Moses and the answer was that they were not. However, that does not mean that there is no moral demand on the disciples of Jesus: Matthew sets these out earlier in his Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount, and it is not difficult to see that underlying all the teachings of Jesus are the two commandments, which are of equal importance: *You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind: and you must love your neighbour as yourself.* ■



Close up of Torah

REFLECT

For the biblical writers, love is not so much an emotion as an attitude. This attitude shows itself in the way the person behaves. Hence no-one can love God inwardly and behave in a manner which contradicts the Lord's teaching and expectations. There is an oft-quoted expression, *Love God and do as you please*, which would seem to suggest that our conduct does not matter as long as we possess the correct interior disposition. However, if a person is a true disciple of Jesus, then their personal integrity will be a matter of the utmost importance, and their living out of the moral values and teaching of their Master will be done out of love for the Lord and not out of duty or compulsion. ■

DO

Consider how you might put your love of Jesus into action. Find a way to helping someone who needs your support, perhaps a lonely neighbour or relative. You might contribute to a fund for the homeless or a refuge for battered women.



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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 29th 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, & Fri: 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Wed: Feast of All Saints – 10am

Tues & Thur: 9.30am Mass

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 29: Hugh, Mary Teresa & Hugh Jun McCusker
Sarah McEvoy (Months Mind)

Sun 5: Willie John McPolin
Kathleen Byrne

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 29: None

Sun 5: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1052.39

Readers - Dromore

Sun 5: Brendan McCann

Feast of All Saints

St Colmans – 10am, Wed 1st Nov

Bereavement

Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre invites you to a day of reflection on: Grief & bereavement

Sat 18th Nov, Registration 9.30am, finishing at 5pm.

(with mass for those who wish to avail of it)
The day will be facilitated by Sr Fiona Galligan R.S.M & Rev. Graham Stockdale (Presbyterian Church), both chaplains at Newry Hospice. Regardless of status, location or religion, at one time or another everybody is bereaved by the death of someone close to them, this day will help participants deal with their loss and move them towards acceptance and peace of mind and heart, so that they can enjoy a fuller quality of life. Cost £30 includes tea breaks and lunch.

Parish Draw Winners Week 27

£100	Danny Doran	582
£50	Patricia Eadie	196
£30	Dan Brennan	106
£20	Laura Rainey	263

Ballela GAC Lotto

No Lotto numbers this week, two weeks Lotto will be printed next week.

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.

Ballela Community Group - CPR Training

The Group are holding a CPR training event on wed 15th Nov at 7.30pm in Ballela School. CPR is a lifesaving technique useful in many emergencies in which someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped. This event is FREE and is open to all age groups.

Grant Application

The group are pleased to inform you that our recent application for funding through the Rural Micro capital Grant Scheme has been approved.

We will replace the curtains in the Dining room with new blinds and purchase 6 new folding tables for Ballela School. This week the Parish has overseen the painting of the schools: entrance porch, hallway, Dining room and Kitchen and we hope parishioners will be pleased with the fresh new look.

Our next big event will be our Christmas Coffee morning on the 10th of Dec, more details later.

November Dead Lists

Are available at the back of the church. Please take one and return it within the next few weeks.

Sick visits

The sick of the parish will be visited on Tuesday 31st Oct

Church Collectors Ballela - November.

Bernard McCusker & John Doyle