

WHAT SORT OF LEADER DO WE WANT?



It is often easier to state rules in terms of what people should not do than in terms of what they *should*. The Ten Commandments are clearer and more definite than the Eight Beatitudes.

In a similar way, we can illustrate what a leader *should be* if we give examples of what such a person *should not be* or should *not do*. In today's extract from Matthew's gospel, we hear an attack on the scribes and Pharisees. But rather than concentrating on the negative picture the evangelist presents of the leaders of the Jewish community, we might think about what he is implying about the leaders of his own Jewish-Christian community, and, by implication, *any* Christian community. It might be something like this:

Christian leaders have a position of authority which those in their care should respect: this means that the leaders have a duty to be people of personal integrity, whose lives match their words;

they will follow the example of Jesus their Master in their interpretation of the law of the church community: his yoke, that is, his teaching, is easy and the consequent burden is light;

they will be humble and modest in dress and demeanour: they will take whatever place is available at meals and at community events;

they will avoid titles which suggest that they are special people and on a higher level than their brothers and sisters in the community;

they will recognise that all are equal within the community and that they themselves are also students of the one Teacher, the Christ;

they will regard themselves as the servants of the community: the higher the position, the greater the call to serve;

they will remember that whoever humbles themselves, God will honour: whoever put themselves above others, God will bring down.

Underlying all of this is the teaching of Jesus that the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served, and to give his life for all people. Matthew's tirade against the leaders of the synagogue of his day is no less relevant for the leaders of the Church today. ■

LEARN

A phylactery is the leather container holding words of the Law which an orthodox Jew wears on his forehead during prayer.

The tassels on a garment are a reminder to the wearer to think about and practise the Law.

Scribes were originally those who simply copied documents:

because they had to understand what they were writing, the scribes gradually came to be involved in government affairs and became the civil servants of their time.

REFLECT

Any organisation has to have structures if it is to function properly. Even the Twelve Apostles had to have a treasurer. The larger the institution, the more officials it needs. The Scriptures are the word of God and so have a permanent value and message for us today. As we reflect on the life of the Church in our country, we are all entitled to express our view on the kind of leadership we need and the sort of person who should occupy positions of service-authority among the People of God. Within the Catholic Church there is no great tradition of consulting the people on the kind of priest they need and whether a particular candidate is actually suitable to be ordained or to be appointed to a particular parish. With the shortage of ordained celibate men, is it not time that as a Church we had an open and frank discussion about these matters? The Holy Spirit is not limited to the clergy. ■

SAY

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful: grant us wisdom.

DO

Take any chance to make known your views on the sort of leader your local community and the wider Church needs. This is your right and responsibility, not a privilege granted by any higher authority.

PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev Conor McConville PP, Tel: 02892-611347
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

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Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish website: www.stcolmans.org
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Thirty first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th Nov 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 : 9.30am Mass

NO Mass Thur 9th Nov

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 5: Willie John McPolin

Kathleen Byrne

Sun 12: Margaret McAnarney & Members of
the McCann Family Co - Cavan
Joseph Magee

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 5: None

Sun 12: Pat & Lucy Delaney

Mary, Thomas & Peggy McCann

Offertory Promise Collection £1364.61

Readers - Dromore

Sun 12: John McKeown

Recently baptised

Anna Grace Coyle

Dáire Patrick Clarke

Patrick Joseph McCracken

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. Cost £30 includes tea breaks and lunch.

Hospice Collection

On Sun 12th Nov in both churches.

Bulletin Notices

All notices for inclusion in next week's bulletin
must be in by **Wed 8th** as office will be closed on
Fri 10th.

Parish Draw Winners Week 28

£100	Rosaleen Gartland	585
£50	Hester Robinson	322
£30	John Doyle	334
£20	Carmel Hillen	058

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 26th Oct – 7 17 20 24

£10 winner Gerard McCusker. Seller: Kevin Close

2nd Nov – 2 8 9 19

No winners. seller: Sean Burns

Next week's jackpot £1160

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. Liam Watson
of Loughgiel Antrim and Warwickshire hurling shall be
attending the Annual Dinner Dance as our special
guest. Liam is one of the finest hurlers that Ulster has
ever produced, a top class inter county player with
Antrim and his club Loughgiel

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.

Special Mass for the Deceased since

30.10.2016

A Mass to commemorate and pray for the deceased
of our Parish since Nov 2016 will be held in both
churches on **Sun 19th of Nov at normal mass time**,
the following is a list from our parish records of those
who have died. Please let us know if there is anyone
from our Parish who has died and is not on the list:
Geoffry Steele, Marion McCartan, Sarah McGuigan,
Francis Hamilton, Hugh Eadie, Margaret Mallon,
Jimmy Devlin, Ann Prentice, Frances Hartin, Stephen
Magee, Mary (Cis) McGuigan, Bridget O'Rourke &
Sarah McEvoy.

A candle will be brought to the alter during mass by a
member of the bereaved family and this candle can
be placed on the grave after Mass.