



In many countries, weddings are big business. There is now a whole class of people whose sole occupation is arranging nuptial occasions: they look after everything from the church to the requirements of the venue, the dinner menu, the band for the dance and so on. Nothing is left to chance.

Very often, the bride's mother will fulfil this function, so the chances of anything going wrong would be pretty slim. The idea of attendants falling asleep on the job simply would not be entertained.

But that is precisely what happens in the parable Jesus tells to his disciples in the gospel reading today. It may be that the bridegroom was engaged in the final negotiations with the bride's father, after which he and the bride would go in procession to the groom's family home. The wise bridesmaids anticipate that there may be a delay and make provision for this by bringing extra oil for their lamps. It does not occur to the others that there may be a problem and they are caught out by events. The first rejection they experience is at the hands of their companions who realise that sharing their oil will only leave all ten short and unable to complete the journey. The second time is when they arrive at the locked door to be told that the owner of the house does not recognise them. The point is that their plight is of their own making: they failed to take responsibility for their task and so the outcome is their own fault.

As we approach the end of the Church's liturgical year, our reading of Matthew's Gospel at our Sunday Eucharist is also coming to its conclusion. The teaching of Jesus now looks forward to the coming of the Son of Man, represented in the parable by the bridegroom. This will involve our giving an account of ourselves, so even if we do not think that the Lord will finally come in glory in our lifetime, it will affect us individually sometime. We are warned that we know neither the day nor the hour, so we are advised to Be Ready! Stay Awake! ■

### REFLECT

**W**e may feel rather sorry for the "foolish" bridesmaids: after all, anyone can make a mistake. But it is a parable about personal responsibility, about thinking ahead and not relying on other people to bail us out of a situation which is of our own making. It is also saying that we do not know when the Lord is likely to come into our lives: not just at the end of our time here on earth, but in the daily events of what we probably consider our very ordinary existence. Some people use a helpful motto which says *Keep it in the day*. Yesterday has gone, tomorrow is not yet here: all we have is today, so let's make the best use of the time we have been given. Let's thank God that we have another day and live it as best we can. ■

### DO

When your alarm rings in the morning (or you wake up in some other way), thank the Lord for a new day and ask for the grace to be prepared for whatever happens.



### LEARN

In the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), God is sometimes described as the husband of Israel.

In the Christian Scriptures (the New Testament), Christ is presented as the bridegroom.

The bridal procession mentioned in the parable would involve the bridegroom leading the bride from her family home to his.

The style of writing in the bible which refers to the end of time is known as *apocalyptic*.

### SAY

**Your love, Lord, is even better than life!**

## PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

### Thirty second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 : No Mass**

**Thu:** 9.30am Mass

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

#### Ballela Anniversaries

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

**Sun 19:** William, Susan & Willie McAleenan

#### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 12:** Pat & Lucy Delaney

Mary, Thomas & Peggy McCann

**Sun 19:** None

**Offertory Promise Collection** £984.27

#### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 19:** J O'Hare

#### Bereavement

Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre  
invites you to a day of reflection on: Grief &  
bereavement **Sat 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

#### Magheradroll Pastoral Area (Magheradroll, Dromara, Drumgooland and Dromore Parishes)

An evening of prayer for vocations will be held in  
St Michael's Church, Finnis, Dromara on Friday  
24th November 2017 commencing with  
Eucharistic Adoration from 5.30pm up to Mass at  
7.30 pm followed by light refreshments. Please  
come, pray and share.

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 29

£100	John Cunningham	029
£50	Mary McAnearney	589
£30	Maureen Beggs	112
£20	Bronagh Cosgrave	329

#### Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 3 6 11 16

£10 winner's: Mathew Cosgrave, Barney McCusker.

Seller: The Anglers

Next week's jackpot £1190

#### Ballela Community Group - CPR Training

The Group are holding a CPR training event on wed  
**15<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Whist

will take place on Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Nov in St Colmans Hall.  
Ladies to supply pastry: Bronagh Brady, Mona  
McGreevy & Isabel Cunningham.