



SETTLING THE ACCOUNTS

One of the temptations of anyone who has to preach is to reduce the meaning of the biblical text to telling people what they should do. This is known as *moralising*.

It is also the easy way out, as it can enable the preacher to avoid the hard questions which the text may be asking, or uncomfortable things which we should all think about from time to time.

One easy way of applying the parable of the Talents is to urge people to *use your talents to the best of your ability*. This is commonplace advice from schoolteachers or sports coaches and appropriate in those settings. But the Bible is concerned about God and our relationship to the Lord: it is not a self-help manual designed to show us how to improve ourselves in a purely human fashion. The servants in the story represent different reactions to the coming of the master and the reckoning which will follow. Two apply themselves responsibly to the task in hand: the third claims that he has done nothing constructive out of fear, but the master accuses him rather of simple laziness and even wickedness. Matthew is telling us that the Son of Man will return and that we should live our lives with that in mind. The purpose of the master in the story is not just to find out the capabilities of the servants but also to decide who should share with him in his joy.

There are two extremes which we might try to avoid: one is becoming so fearful of encountering the Lord that we become paralysed and do nothing, like the *lazy and wicked* servant in the parable; the other is that we try to do so much that we end up exhausted but still feeling that we could - and should - have done more. The first two servants act responsibly in anticipation of their master's return and are rewarded: it is that aspect of the parable that we might keep in mind and trust in the mercy of our Lord who came among us as one of us and understands our human condition. ■

SAY

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

REFLECT

It is never comfortable thinking about the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell. But at this time of the year, the Church in her liturgy asks us to do just that. We can all slip into a complacent, sleepy way of living and thinking. There has always been the possibility of falling into an attitude of trusting in the Lord's mercy, no matter how we have lived (presumption) or of giving up and saying something like *I'll never be good enough, so what's the use?* (despair). Or, we can think that everything depends on our own efforts or that we can leave everything to God. As usual, the truth lies somewhere in the middle. We have all been redeemed by Christ: but we are not all necessarily saved. For that we have to co-operate with Lord's grace by living responsibly in anticipation of meeting him some day. ■

LEARN

The original meaning of the word *talent* is a vast sum of money:

The use of the word *talent* to describe a natural ability seems to have come from this parable.

The word *parousia* which occurs in other contexts means the final coming of the son of Man.

DO

In November, we think in a special way about the Holy Souls. When you visit the cemetery, ask for the grace to make the best use of your time, day by day, living as a disciple of Jesus.



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

Thirty 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 & Thu: 9.30am Mass

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 19: William, Susan & Willie McAleenan

Sun 26: Members of The Doran Family

John & Mary Cunningham

Mary McGrath

Willie McAleenan, Kilmacrew

Daniel & Theresa Doyle, Kilkinamurry

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 19: None

Sun 26: Mairead Keery

Kathleen Doherty

Offertory Promise Collection £1021.04

Readers - Dromore

Sun 26: Katie Rice

Recently Baptised

Kate O'Hare

Lourdes Christmas bingo

In Annaclone football club on Sunday 26th of November at 3.00pm. The committee are currently running a raffle for a Hamper to the value of £100, to be drawn before Christmas £1 per line, contact any member of Lourdes committee to be in with a chance.

Next Lourdes meeting 20th November in Ballela at 8.30, New members welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

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

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.

Sunday 19th Nov 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 30

£500	Attracta Herron	244
£500	Paula Burns	048

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 13 14 19 22

No £10 winner's.

Seller: John Doyle

Next week's jackpot £1220

Christmas Coffee Morning

Ballela Community Group are having their Christmas Coffee morning in Ballela School on Sun 10th Dec after 9.45am Mass in Ballela. There will be delicious homemade scones, buns and treats for everyone and there will be a chance for all the kids to visit Santa in his Grotto. Admission £2 per person.

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. 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.

Whist

will take place on Sun 19th Nov in St Colmans Hall.

Ladies to supply pastry: Bronagh Brady, Mona McGreevy & Isabel Cunningham.

Tea & Chat

Will take place after 11am mass on Sun 26th Nov in St Colmans Hall, Dromore. Everyone welcome.

"Action cancer" Coffee Morning

Caroline Connolly is hosting a Coffee Morning on Sat 9th Dec at 26c Shanrod Rd, Katesbridge, from 10am – 5pm in aid of "Action Cancer" Everyone welcome.

Do This In Memory

Will take place in both churches on Sun 26th Nov.

Dromantine Advent Retreat Weekend

8th to 10th December. See notice at back of Church.