

FOLLOW THAT STAR!



The Gospel message is for everyone. This is the point which Matthew is making in the colourful episode of the Visit of the Magi. They are Gentiles, they do not belong to the Jewish people, and they foreshadow the Gentiles who are open to Jesus later in the story.

They are brought to Jerusalem by their scientific observations, but need the Jewish scriptures to fulfil their quest. Herod reminds us of the Pharaoh of the Exodus, who saw in the growth of the Hebrew people a threat to his throne and the stability of his country, and Herod will adopt similarly extreme measures to deal with this perceived threat. Throughout the two chapters which comprise the Infancy Narrative of Matthew, God communicates with the main character, Joseph, through dreams, and here the infant Jesus is saved from Herod by another such divine intervention with the Magi. Bethlehem is the town traditionally associated with King David, and the priests quote the prophet Micah as identifying it as the place from which the Christ, the Messiah will come. All of these references to the Old Testament underline that God's plan for human beings is being realised in the person of Jesus. The symbolic gifts announce themes which Matthew will develop in the body of his gospel: Jesus' kingship (gold), his divinity as the Son of God (incense), his redeeming death on the cross and burial (myrrh).. ■

REFLECT

Artistic scenes of the Visit of the Magi can help us understand the point Matthew is making. Very often the three figures will comprise a European/Caucasian, an Asian and an African personage. This expresses in visual form the universality of the gospel message, that the only requirement in order to be accepted is desire and an open mind. The word *catholic* means *universal*, and in some ways this is the feast which we should celebrate in a special way as the revelation of God's love for all people. Thanks to the dramatic increase in the movement of people round the world, many Sunday congregations now comprise members from different countries and cultures, so we are much more accustomed to actually seeing for ourselves that the Gospel has reached most regions of the world.

But people are still searching for answers to the deepest questions in human life. No-one comes to believe until they are ready. There is no ready-made answer, and often the honest person has to struggle, has to make a long journey before things fall into place, if in fact they ever do. Others may come to believe and want to join the community, but find for one reason or another they are not welcome. Perhaps we need to think in a broader way about the Feast of the Epiphany: if we no longer think along lines of race and culture, should we be thinking in other ways, about the different types of people in our world, our country today? This feast might also remind us that all human beings are made in the image and likeness of God and no race, religion or any other factor has a monopoly on that. ■

LEARN

The word *epiphany* means showing.

The Church recognizes three events as epiphany: the showing of the child Jesus to the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the first sign at Cana, the changing of water into wine.

There is no number given to the magi in the text of Matthew.

The figures of the *three kings* are derived from the three gifts and the text of Psalm 71 (72), which portrays the kings of the earth bringing gifts and paying homage to the Lord.

DO

Look at the figures of the magi in the crib. Who are the people searching for Christ in your area? What could you suggest that your parish might do to help them?



SAY

Lord, guide us with your light.

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

Baptism of The Lord

Sunday 7th January 2018

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 7: James McCusker, Kilkinamurry

Sun 14: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 7: Sam, Lily & Sam jnr Clarke

Hugh McGrath

James McEvoy

Francis Hamilton

Sun 14: Hugh Eadie

Offertory Promise Collection £817.13

Readers - Dromore

Sun 14: Ciara Cunningham

Recently Baptised

Jack Paul Carroll

Assumption Grammar School

Assumption Grammar School's Open Day will take place on Saturday 20th January 2018 from 10.00 am-1.00 pm. Principal's Address: 10.00 am & 11.00 am. We look forward to meeting prospective P6 & P7 pupils, and those wishing to transfer into Sixth Form.

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee

Next meeting will take place on Mon 15th Jan at 8.30pm in Ballela School

Admission Forms to St Colmans P.S

Dromore

Application Forms are available at the school for children who are aged 4 on or before 1st July 2018 and are eligible to apply for a Primary one place. Closing date 12 noon, Wed 10th January 2018.

Parish Draw Winners Week 37

£100	John Mulgrew	138
£50	Maura Collins	439
£30	Marie Mackin	336
£20	Kath Cosgrave	318

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 8 9 10 23

No £10 winners Seller: Kevin Close

Next week's jackpot £1430

Club A.G.M. will take place on Mon 8th Jan 2018 in The Anglers Rest. All fully paid up members are encouraged to attend.

Ballela Community Group

Meeting Mon 15th Jan at 7.30pm

Weight watchers Class

Will resume on Monday 8th Jan 2018 at 6pm in St Colman's hall, Dromore, tea/Coffee available and everyone is welcome. Please contact Gearldine: 07776109903.

The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar

School, Newry

Open day is on Sat 13th Jan from 10am – 12noon.

Admission to St Mary's Primary School

Dechomet Children who are aged four on or before 1st July 2018 are eligible to apply for a Year One place. We also welcome Reception pupils - children whose fourth birthday occurs between 2nd July 2018 and 31st May 2019 may join Reception Class on or after their fourth birthday. Last date for return of applications is 12 noon, Wednesday 10th January 2018. www.stmaryspsdechomet.com

St Colman's College Open day

The principal, staff and students would like to invite P6 & P7 pupils, to our Open Day on Sat 20th Jan 2018 from 10am -1pm. Principal Cormac McKinney will address guests at 11am and 12 noon.

Hall Tables

One of the white tables has gone missing from St Colmans hall. As these belong to Autumn Leaves they should not be taken out of the hall, if someone has borrowed the table please return it immediately.