

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 2

COME AND SEE!



Painting of scene Jesus and disciples (by D. Nolet 1645) in St. Jacobs Church (Jakobskerk).

The extract from the Gospel of John today tells about the first disciples gathering around Jesus. John the Baptist repeats his description of Jesus as the lamb of God: earlier he used this phrase with the addition, who takes away the sin of the world.

Thus he identifies Jesus with two important passages in the Hebrew scriptures, the servant of the Lord in Isaiah who suffers on behalf of the people and the Passover lamb in Exodus, a symbol which will return as the background to the crucifixion of Jesus at the end of the story. The Baptist's appreciation of Jesus is due to coming of the Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism, when the Spirit comes and remains on Jesus. God has revealed to the Baptist who Jesus is, and John declares him to be the Son of God. This is the Baptist's witness to Jesus, so his task is now complete and he sends his own disciples to follow Jesus, to become now disciples of Jesus.

The disciples describe Jesus as *Rabbi* and the *Messiah*, titles which are accurate but do not fully express Jesus' true identity: that comes with Thomas' confession of the risen Jesus as *My Lord and my God*. However, they are open to Jesus and their present ideas about him are the seed out of which a full faith can grow. That, in fact, is the purpose of the Fourth Gospel, so that you may believe. The gospels were written not as simply a biography of Jesus but as an expression of what the writers and their communities believed about Jesus: they are an invitation to us to deepen our faith in the Lord, like the disciples in the narrative. ■

REFLECT

Andrew and his unnamed companion come to Jesus because of the testimony of John the Baptist. Simon Peter comes to Jesus at the prompting of Andrew. Other characters such as Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman represent different kinds of people who come to Jesus in puzzlement or by chance and through conversation come to appreciate better Jesus and his message. John the Evangelist does not see the disciples as helping Jesus in his ministry as the other gospel writers do: they are more companions who learn about Jesus by being with him, by remaining with him. John presents very little teaching about behaviour or the moral life: his emphasis is on *believing*: Jesus' mission is to reveal God to people.

Andrew meets Jesus and brings Simon: the Samaritan woman has a conversation with Jesus, then goes and talks about him to the other townspeople with the result that they too come and find out about him for themselves and come to believe in him as *the Saviour of the world*. These conversions are not due to some great evangelical campaign but to the quiet testimony of people who talked to others: perhaps there is a lesson for all of us here, that people can come to find out about Jesus and his message because others have (perhaps unwittingly) planted questions in their mind. ■

LEARN

The word *disciple* means *student* or *learner*.

The change of name (e.g. *Simon* to *Peter*) suggests a profound change in the person concerned.

The expression *Lamb of God* refers to the Passover lamb whose blood saved the Israelites from the angel of death in Egypt.

In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus is the only one who acts: the disciples have no share in his ministry of preaching and healing as in the Synoptic versions.

SAY

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

DO

Think of what you might say to someone who hints to you that they might be interested in finding out more about the faith. Take the opportunity if it presents itself.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 14th 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, Tues, Wed, Thur & Fri 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

No Mass during the week

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 14: Mary Ann & Patrick McAleenan, Endego

Sun 21: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 14: Hugh Eadie

Yvonne Reidy

Sarah (Dolly) McGuigan

Sun 21: Joe Topley

Marilyn Keenan (Months Mind)

Offertory Promise Collection £1158.12

Readers - Dromore

Sun 21: Claire Downey

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.

St Vincent De Paul Committee

Would like to thank all its parishioners for the immense response to the Family Christmas Appeal.

Also St Colman's Primary School who helped with the food for the hampers.

44 Hampers went to families, 24 children and 26 adults were helped through the Giving Tree. Wishing you all A very Happy and Holy New Year.

Parish Draw Winners Week 38

£100	Maureen Clarke	540
£50	Vincent Cunningham	033
£30	John Downey	176
£20	Eileen McMullan	593

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 6 14 18 21

No £10 winners. Seller: Kevin Close

Next week's jackpot £1460

Ballela Community Group

Meeting Tues 16th Jan at 7.30pm

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.

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee

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

Whist

Whist will take place in St Colmans hall, Dromore on Sun 21st Jan at 8.30pm. Ladies to supply pastry : Patricia Mackin, Marie Stewart & Eileen Gribben

Tea & Chat

Will take place in St Colmans hall after 11am mass today. Everyone welcome.

Common Service of Worship

An Ecumenical service of prayer, led by Bishop McAreavey, will be held in Newry Catholic Cathedral on Thursday evening, 18th Jan, at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Do This In Memory

Will take place in both churches today