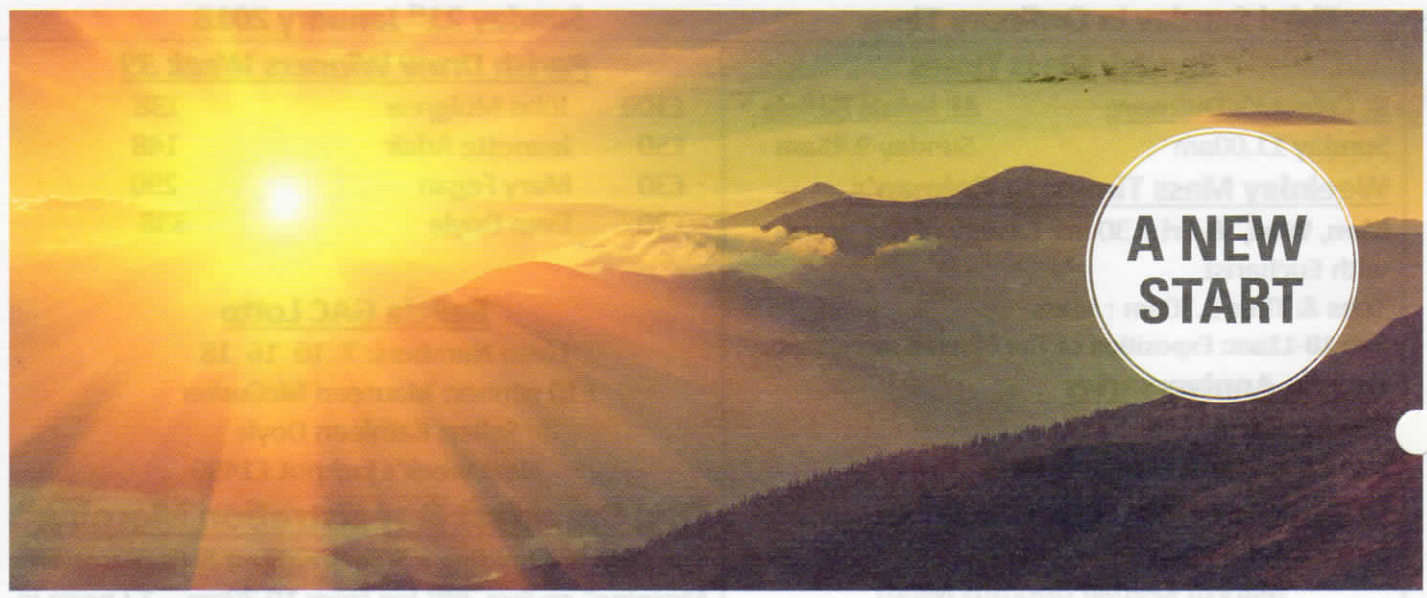




THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 3



A NEW START

The gospel today tells us that the time of John the Baptist is over and that the ministry of Jesus has begun. Jesus has been prepared for this by being baptised and tested.

We are given a summary of what Jesus' preaching was all about: *the time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.* The theme of the kingdom of God is at the heart of Jesus' preaching, which he carries out not simply by what he says, but also by what he does: his miracles are actually *works of power* by which God's kingdom penetrates situations where human life is threatened and people experience the kingdom as saving power. The proper response to the preaching of Jesus is a change of heart (repentance) and faith. A change of heart is shown in a new way of living, and faith involves trust in Jesus and in the Good News. In Jesus the kingdom has arrived but is not yet complete: that will happen with his Second Coming. What it brings is also *hope*, that God is with us, here and now in all the difficulties of our human and Christian life. ■

REFLECT

The notions of *king and kingdom* may be difficult for many people. The idea of someone having a right to rule others simply because of their birth and parentage is not one which most people would accept any more. Also, the term *kingdom* may not be particularly helpful, as it suggests a place or even an institution such as the church. However, any term we use of God we use by *analogy*: we are saying in effect that this is one way in which we try to express our understanding of the divine mystery. Throughout the Hebrew scriptures, the writers often refer to the Lord as the King of Israel. In the Gospel according to John, we find that title given to Jesus by Nathaniel, one of the first disciples, and it is the description, ironically accurate, which is pinned above him on the cross.

Perhaps it might help if we consider that in the Hebrew bible, Israel is considered to be a people under the Lord, living by the divine Law. The Church today is portrayed as the People of God, living by the gospel teachings of Jesus. In both cases, this is a free choice: it is a covenant relationship which is ideally freely and gratefully accepted. The people of Israel were given a choice by Joshua. Jesus proclaims the Kingdom but does not try to force people into accepting his message, it is up to the individual to make up her or his own mind. That, in many ways, is the function of the gospel of Mark: it is a *narrative proclamation of the Christ event*. It does not set out to prove that Jesus is the "Son of God": its purpose is to engage the reader or hearer in the unfolding story of Jesus of Nazareth, so that they may believe that no power, human or otherwise, can defeat the kingdom of God. ■

LEARN

Another possible expression for *the kingdom of God* is *the reign of God*.

"Hallowed by thy name" is another way of saying "Thy kingdom come."

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is also another version of "Thy kingdom come."

The gospel of Mark is a proclamation of belief in Jesus presented as a story.



SAY
Your kingdom come!

DO

As you go about your daily business remember that the kingdom of God is within you already.

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

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St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

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 & Thur 9.30am : Mass

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 21: None

Sun 28: Eddie & Elizabeth McGrath

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 21: Joe Topley

Marilyn Keenan (Months Mind)

Mary Caulfield (Months Mind)

Sun 28: Wenny Moreland

Isobel & James Mulgrew

John Gribbin

John Finegan

Offertory Promise Collection £1005.23

Readers - Dromore

Sun 28: Ciara Downey

Glór Uachtar Tíre

Local Irish language cross community group, Glór Uachtar Tíre, is running an Intensive Irish Language course on Saturday 27th January 10am-4pm. Three levels of classes available; absolute beginners, intermediate and advanced. The course will be held in Castlewellan's Irish language primary school, Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche. Cost: £20 (includes Lunch). Call 028 437 70331/ 0750 1252027 or email gloruachtartire@hotmail.co.uk for information or to book your place.

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

Sunday 21st January 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 39

£100	John Mulgrew	138
£50	Jeanette Adair	148
£30	Mary Fegan	290
£20	Evan Doyle	338

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 7 10 16 18

£10 winner: Maureen McCusker

Seller: Kathleen Doyle

Next week's jackpot £1490

"Big Breakfast & registration Morning"

The Club are holding a "Big Breakfast & Registration Morning" on Sun 28th Jan from 10.30am – 12 noon in Ballela P.S. Come along and have a fry and pay your membership, £5 per fry includes tea/coffee.

Ballela Community Group

Meeting Tues 23rd Jan at 7.30pm

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice & Anam

Cara, an organisation that supports bereaved parents, will be holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Tuesday 30th January at 7.30pm in Corr's Corner Hotel, 315 Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 4TQ. This is a free event open to all bereaved parents. Northern Ireland Children's Hospice and Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for this event. We would appreciate if you could RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Monday 29th January 2018 or contact us on 02895213120.

Prayer For The day

Lord, grant that I may repent and not be overwhelmed by guilt, that I may believe and praise you for the gift of faith, that I may follow you and not count the cost and that I might always be prepared to show the reason for my hope in you.