



ROUND ONE TO JESUS.

The ruins of the synagogue in the small town Capernaum on the coast of the lake of Galilee

Capernaum, a town on the shore of the Sea of Galilee becomes the base for Jesus' activity of preaching and healing.

The synagogue there is the setting for the first public act in Jesus' ministry. It is not clear what the actual nature of the *unclean spirit* is, but it is clearly opposed to Jesus, *the Holy One of God*. It is a feature of Mark's narrative that only spirits, not human beings, perceive accurately who Jesus really is. The idea of *holy* means someone or something consecrated to God or closely associated with the Lord. It suggests life, wholeness and completeness: in this sense, a person or object is *clean*. *Unclean* suggests the opposite, something which is out of place or incomplete. In this sense there is the kingdom of God, which is holy, and the realm of the demonic, which is unclean. In this story, Jesus' authority, which people have recognized in his teaching, is more powerful than the demon. Jesus heals the possessed person simply by his word, not by touch or any other ritual action. Mark will show that Jesus has authority over any power which threatens human life: this is an instance of how he is greater than spiritual forces opposed to the kingdom of God. Jesus has already been tested and has withstood the attack of the devil in the wilderness. His word has been sufficient for people to abandon their occupations to follow him. His authority is greater than that of the scribes. This opening scene sets the tone for the rest of the gospel narrative. ■

REFLECT

We may be tempted to dismiss this story as one belonging to an ancient, superstitious culture. Indeed, a pre-scientific age did tend to ascribe apparently inexplicable happenings to the work of malign spirits. Also, people who suffered from conditions that we would now say are due to physical conditions such as epilepsy or some kind of mental illness were regarded as being possessed by demons, and exorcisms were common. But few

people today would say that we are not subject to forces beyond our control: we are all affected by economic and political realities of one kind or another. Evil exists in our world, whether we believe in a personal devil or not. There are forces built into the way our societies function which can be described as *sinful*, these are called *structural sin*, which keep people in situations of poverty, despair and injustice. The Gospels present Jesus as bringing the authority of the Kingdom to bear on forces which threaten or diminish human life, and we usually

SAY

What do you want from me, Jesus of Nazareth?

DO

Get involved in some project in your local area to address some pressing social need. Help to make a miracle happen.

LEARN

Capernaum is a town on the north-west shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Another name for the Sea of Galilee is the Lake of Gennesareth.

In Mark's gospel, transcendent, spiritual forces recognize Jesus for who he really is.

In the world in which the gospels were written, malign or evil spirits were usually held responsible for events or illnesses which people could not explain.

describe these acts of power as *miracles*. Sometimes we say that it would take a miracle to sort out some of the problems which face our community or society: perhaps the gospel stories such as the one we have been thinking about today are intended to encourage us not simply to hope and believe that something indeed *can* be done, but that, as disciples of Jesus, perhaps we can do something to bring the Kingdom values of justice and peace to bear on such situations. Perhaps a miracle can happen. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Forth 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

Feast of St Brigid

Thur 1st Feb: Mass 9.30am

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 28: Eddie & Elizabeth McGrath

Sun 4: Mariea McCrickard
Martin Magee

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 28: Wenny Moreland

Isobel & James Mulgrew
John Gribbin
John Finegan

Thur 1: Kathleen McGuigan

Sun 4: Rosaleen McGreevy

John & Mary Burns
Joe & Annie Mulgrew

Offertory Promise Collection £1191.43

Readers - Dromore

Sun 4: Aileen Gracey

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee

Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage **17th to 22nd of May 2018**, Pilgrim fare £610. If anyone is wishing to travel as Sick please forward your name to any member of Lourdes Committee in order to be assessed.

Lourdes dance will take place in St Colmans Hall Dromore on **Saturday 3rd March**, music by Kevin Kearney. Lourdes fundraising tickets currently on sale, contact any member.

N.I. Blood Transfusion Services

The next blood donation session will be held in Cathedral Church Hall, dromore on Wed 7th Feb 2pm-4pm & 5.15pm – 8pm.

Sunday 28th January 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 40

£500	M McClenaghan	121
£500	Brenda Jones	017

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 7 11 14 16

No £10 winner's: Seller: The Anglers

Next week's jackpot £1520

"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

If you have any ideas for **Classes** which you would like to see held in the school this year please contact a member of the committee and we will see if we can get tutors from SRC Banbridge to come out. A registration of at least 12 people will be needed for each class for it to go ahead.

Lenten Retreat Days in Dromantine

Dromantine is offering two retreat days during lent. These will provide time and space to reflect and pray in the peaceful environment of Dromantine on important themes of Lent and to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. Dates: Sat 17th Feb –led by Fr Aodhán McCrystal, SMA & Sat 10th March –Led by Fr Des Corrigan, SMA Time: 10am -5pm. Cost: £25/30 Euros, includes lunch, tea/coffee. All are welcome.

To Book Tel: 02830821964 or email:

admin@dromantineconference.com.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited during the week

Church Collectors Ballela – February

Bernard Cosgrave & Willie Doyle

Candlemas Day - friday 2nd Feb

Blessed Candles are available at the back of the Church.