

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



The *hour* of Jesus has arrived. He has reached the end of his public ministry, which reached its climax in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the action which, ironically, leads to the plot to put Jesus to death.

The coming of the Greeks denotes the gathering of all people to Jesus when he is glorified, which will happen on the cross. Jesus' death is the ultimate expression of his self-giving in fulfilling his mission from God. This attitude is what he expects of his disciples. We should understand the idea of loving or hating one's life in the sense of asking ourselves where our real values in life lie. Do we love the things of this world and would rather hold on to them at any cost, or are we prepared to let them go so that we can receive something infinitely more satisfying in this life and the next?

Throughout his Gospel, the evangelist whom we call John presents Jesus as knowing everything and being in complete control. We have seen how the cross is the instrument of Jesus' being lifted up in glory (exalted). But this does not take away the terror of being crucified. There is no account in John of the struggle of Jesus in Gethsemane to remain faithful to his mission, which is leading him to Calvary. But Jesus does shudder in the face of death on more than one occasion. Here he says, "Now my soul is troubled", but accepts that this is the way in which the Father is to be glorified.

We have seen that God loved the *world*. However, the term appears in different senses in the Fourth Gospel, and here it is used in a negative sense, being linked to the forces opposed to God, personified in "the prince of this world". Here we have the idea of the people who reject Jesus and his message. Judgment will be pronounced on them, but a judgment which they have decided and brought upon themselves. Those who accept Jesus and become truly his disciples will be honoured by the Father and will be where he is. ■

REFLECT

One of the most significant changes in the celebration of the Eucharist has been enabling people to receive Holy Communion in the hand.

Perhaps as we reflect on today's Gospel, we might see this simple gesture as an expression of what it means to be willing to accept Jesus and his message. First of all, our hands are open. We are indicating that we are ready to receive the bread of life, Jesus' teaching and himself in the Eucharistic bread.

Secondly, our hands are empty. In normal circumstances, if our hands are closed, then we cannot receive what someone is offering us. Our hands might be forming a fist or clutching onto something which we are determined not to let go. This is what Jesus means by loving our life and clinging onto the wrong things. We believe that at communion time we receive Jesus into ourselves. The gesture of opening our hands and holding them up expresses physically the opening up of our deepest selves to receive God's gift. ■

LEARN

The hour of Jesus is John's way of referring to the event of Jesus' being glorified on the cross.

This event encompasses the entire paschal mystery of Jesus' death, entry into his glorified life and the bestowing of the Spirit on his disciples.

The expression *Agony in the Garden* might be better understood as Jesus' *Struggle in Gethsemane*.

DO

If you receive Communion in the hand, reflect on the physical action as you perform it. If you receive Communion on the tongue, ask yourself why, and what this gesture means to you.



SAY

Father, glorify your name!

PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev Conor McConville PP, Tel: 02892-611347
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Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore **All Saints Ballela**
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon & Wed - 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Tues & Thur - 9.30am : Mass

Wed – 7pm : Mass (During Lent)

Fri – 9.30am – Stations of the cross with Eucharist

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

Sun - 7-8pm –Prayer Meeting, reflection and Eucharistic adoration will be held in Parochial house during lent. Everyone welcome.

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 18: James Burns

Sun 25: Jimmy Devlin
James Meehan

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 18: Margaret Walsh (Months Mind)
Patrick McGreevy

Sun 25: Margaret Donaldson

Offertory Promise Collection £965.15

Readers - Dromore

Sun 25: Niall Rice

Do This in Memory

Will take place in both churches on Sun 25th of March.

The Pope John Paul II Awards

Ceremony will take place on Wed 21st March at 7.30pm in St Teresa's Banbridge.

Parish Draw

The new Parish Draw begins on 7th April 2018 and new members are very welcome. The parish Draw raised £4988 for our parish in 2017 and it is an important source of income. Please contact Mary Burns on 02892693796 or complete one of the forms at the back of the church and leave it in the collection basket or at the Parochial House. Cost is £1 per week for 50 weeks.

Sunday 18th March 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 47

£100	Kevin Mallon	478
£50	Louise McEntee	152
£30	Jeanette Adair	148
£20	Michael Finegan	257

Ballela GAC Lotto

This week's Lotto: 3 6 22 24

No £10 winners Seller Anglers

Next week's jackpot £1730

Farm Family First Aid Course

Ballela Community Group have organised a "Farm Family first aid course" on 10th April at 7.30pm in Ballela school. This course is open to farmers, farm employees and farm family members and teaches the practical skills to deal with common medical emergencies that can occur on a farm. 3 hour first aid course, learn how to deal with farm related medical emergencies, certificate for all attendees, Free first aid kit and first aid manual. Trainees should bring **associated farm business number. Only 20 places available.** To book a place on this course ring Patricia O'Rourke: 0771293385

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.

Annaclone P.S /All Saints' Nursery, Annual

Easter Fayre Will take place on Mon 26th March 1pm – 2.30pm. Items needed: toys/games in good condition, raffle prizes, hampers, cakes/traybakes. No bric a brac or books please. Tea/coffee available. Monies raised for Trócaire and school funds.

Whist Will take place on Sun 18th of March in St Colmans Hall, Dromore at 8.30pm. Ladies to supply pastry: Josephine Mulligan & Elizabeth McGuigan

Tea & Chat

Will take place on Sun 25th of March in St Colmans hall. Everyone welcome.