

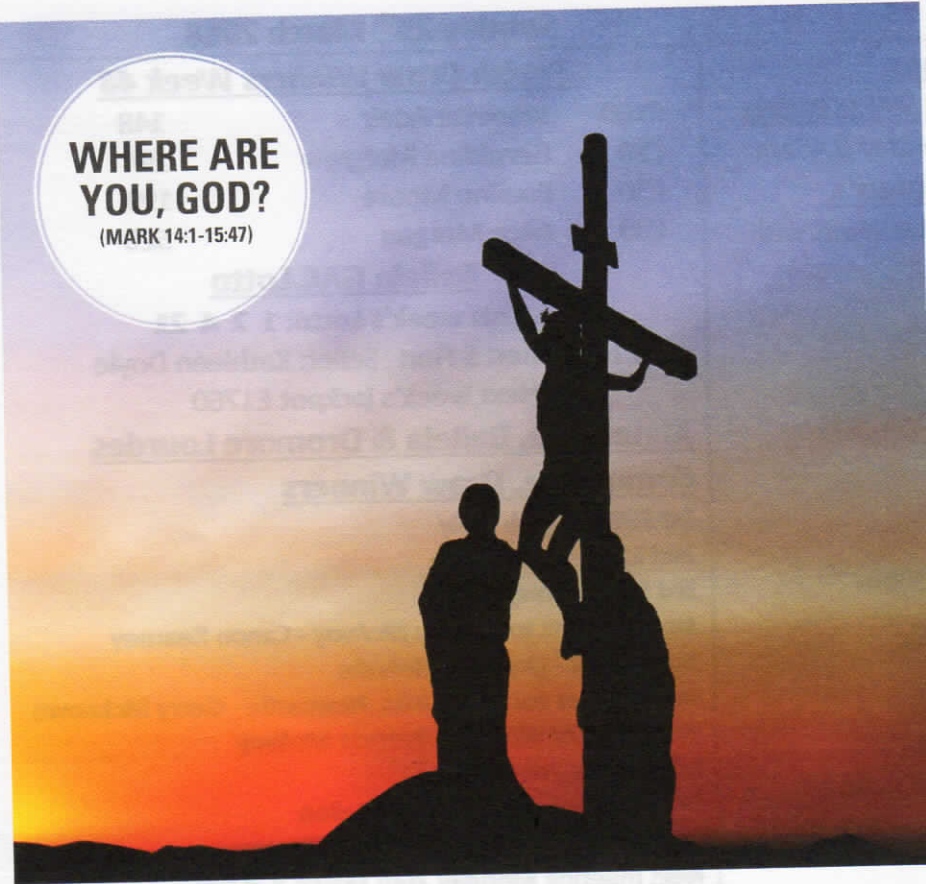
# Sunday Message

## THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Red • Psalter Week 2

### WHERE ARE YOU, GOD?

(MARK 14:1-15:47)



## REFLECT

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews tells us that in Christ we have a high priest who understands our human weaknesses because he has been tested in exactly the same way that we have, except for sin. In Mark's account of the Passion, we can see that Jesus has experienced the most extreme form of loneliness, feeling abandoned by everyone including those closest to him, even by God. It might not be stretching the point to say that Jesus experienced despair, if we take his final cry as it stands and accept the most obvious meaning without trying to qualify it.

All too often people find themselves in a similar situation and state of mind. In the most tragic cases, it can lead to suicide. Perhaps we can see from Mark's account of the Passion that Christ has plumbed the depths of that emotion and can understand the pain people experience there. After the cross came the resurrection: no situation is so bad that there is never any hope. ■

Mark's version of the Passion of Jesus is unremittingly bleak: as one author puts it, Jesus is "abandoned by his disciples, betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, accused of blasphemy by the priests, rejected in favour of a murderer by the crowd, mocked by the Sanhedrin and by Roman troops and by all who came to the cross, surrounded by darkness and seemingly forsaken by his God."

He suffers and dies alone and in utter desolation: there are none of the human touches that we find in the other accounts which relieve the picture of Jesus' being utterly forsaken.

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus has refused to allow people to refer to him as the Messiah. The probable reason is that if we read the Gospel of Mark carefully and ask ourselves why any human being would come to that conclusion about Jesus, we would have to say that the reasoning was that Jesus could perform works of power which we usually call miracles. But for Mark, the sign of Jesus being the Messiah is the cross. It is at the cross that the Gentile centurion can finally make the well-founded declaration that "In truth this man was a son of God". This is the answer to the devil's testing at the outset of Jesus' ministry, where he challenges Jesus, "If you are the Son of God..." The Roman soldier can make the valid confession about Jesus now because there can be no possible further misunderstanding about what it means to be the *Son of God*. It is Jesus' commitment to his mission, his obedience to the will of the Father which has brought him to this.

God's answer to Jesus' desperate cry comes after he dies: the veil of the Temple is ripped from top to bottom. It is now Jesus, not the Temple, where Jew and Gentile will encounter God, and these two groups are represented by the Roman centurion, Joseph of Arimathea, the women and the other people from Galilee who were present at Calvary. The name Jesus means God saves. God has saved people from their sins in the person, ministry, passion and death of Jesus. And through this dedication to his mission from the Father, Jesus will be glorified. ■

## LEARN

Calvary, or Golgotha, was a mound near the city wall of Jerusalem, not a *green hill*.

Crucifixion caused death by suffocation or asphyxiation, not by bleeding.

Criminals were crucified near to the road so that passers-by would be warned that they would suffer a similar fate if they committed a crime similar to that advertised on a notice above the crucified person.

The veil of the Temple was a curtain across the entrance to the Holy of Holies and separated the divine presence from the worshippers in the Temple courts.

## DO

During Holy Week, carry your palm, or a piece of it, with you to remind you of the lengths God is prepared to go to reach out to you personally.

## SAY

Truly, this was the Son of God.

# PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

## Palm Sunday

### 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**- 9.30am : Mass

**Wed** – 7pm : Mass (During Lent)

### Holy Thursday

Confession 6-7pm

Mass of The Lords Supper-7.30pm

### Good Friday

Stations of The Cross – 3pm

Passion and Death of our Lord – 7.30pm

### Saturday

The Easter Vigil – 9pm

### All Saint's Ballela

#### Good Friday

Stations of The Cross – 3pm

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 25:** Jimmy Devlin

James Meehan

Desmond O'Rourke

**Sun 1:** None

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 25:** Margaret Donaldson

**Sun 1:** Mary Mulgrew

**Offertory Promise Collection** £969.80

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 1:** Anwin Robin

### Recently Deceased

Larry McDonald, Jubilee Rd, Dromore

Brian Mussan, Toronto, Canada, (formerly of Dromore.)

### New Envelopes

New Envelopes are now available. Please lift your box at the back of the church. A new system has been installed to manage and record envelopes and as a result your envelope number will have changed.

**Trócaire Boxes:** Please return next week

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Parish Draw Winners Week 48

£100	Jeanette Adair	148
£50	Geraldine Mulgrew	194
£30	Pauline Moore	199
£20	Alice Morgan	520

### Ballela GAC Lotto

**This week's Lotto: 1 2 4 21**

£10 winner: S Finn    Seller: Kathleen Doyle

Next week's jackpot £1760

### Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

#### Committee, Draw Winners

1st £200 - Eilish Kelly

2nd £100 - John Doyle

3rd £50 - Danny Doyle

4th x2 tickets to Johnny McAvoy - Canon Kearney

5th Sweets - Dominic McArdle

6th Voucher for Gold Links, Newcastle - Gerry Mckeown

7th Bottle of Whiskey- Patricia McAvoy

8th Sweets - Niall Burns

9th Bottle of Wine - Leona Mallon

10th Gift Set - Cathal McAnarney

Next meeting Monday 26th March 8.30pm.

### Tea & Chat

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

### Childrens Liturgy (Easter activity)

All children are invited to come and make Easter Gardens from **10.30 - 11.30am on Good Friday in All Saints Ballela**. Bring an empty ice cream tub. Parents are welcome to stay and help or drop children out. See Michael or Jill for more information.

### Do This in Memory

Will take place in both churches on Sun 25<sup>th</sup> of March

### Parish Draw

The new Parish Draw begins on 7<sup>th</sup> 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.