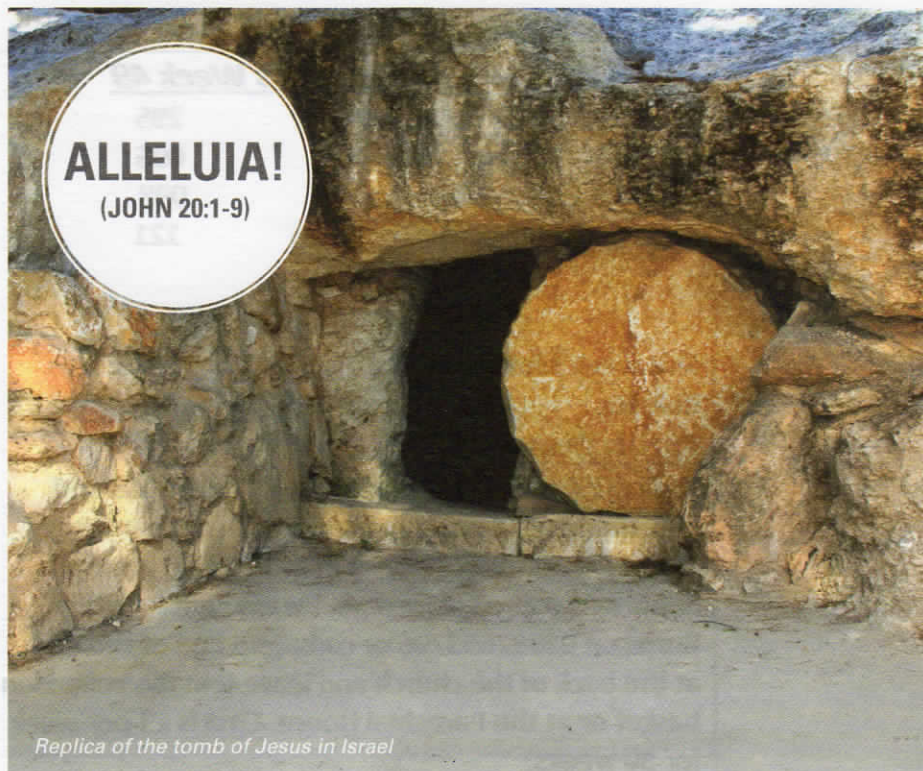


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



ALLELUIA!

(JOHN 20:1-9)

Replica of the tomb of Jesus in Israel

For John, the story of Jesus ended on the cross. For the Fourth Evangelist, the crucifixion is Jesus' being lifted up in exaltation and the Paschal Mystery is complete. However, the story of the disciples is not yet properly concluded. Today we hear the account of three of them at the empty tomb of Jesus.

The scene is set still in darkness, which indicates a state of unbelief. Mary Magdalene is the first to visit the tomb, alone in John's account. The possibility of Jesus' being risen from the dead does not occur to her: she assumes that unknown parties have removed the corpse. There is no indication that Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved think any differently as they run to the sepulchre. In the Johannine tradition, the person usually called the Beloved Disciple, who is the source of that particular memory of Jesus, outruns Peter; this is an indication of his priority in the community. He stops outside and peers in. Peter enters the tomb before him, which is a sign of Peter's rank of authority among the disciples.

They are confronted with details which remind us of the story of the raising of Lazarus, but which underscore the difference between that and what has happened to Jesus. Lazarus came out of the tomb still wrapped in the cloths of death, his face covered with a cloth. In Jesus' case, the cloths are lying empty on the ground and the cloth over his head is neatly folded elsewhere. The mention of the cloth being folded and the stone over the entrance to the tomb having been moved away hint that God has been active in all this. The unnamed disciple sees the symbols of death's defeat – the empty tomb, the linen cloths, the cloth which had been over Jesus' head – and he believed. It is important that we note that he believes without seeing the risen Jesus. This will be the final teaching of Jesus in the phrase often called the Johannine Beatitude: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe". The evangelist is speaking to us – and about us! ■

REFLECT

The empty tomb proves nothing. It can only tell us that *He is not here*. The characters in the Gospel story, with the exception of the disciple whom Jesus loved, come to believe that Jesus is risen through an encounter which conveys revelation from God, either by angels or by meeting the risen Jesus. That the tomb is empty is a consequence of the resurrection, not a proof of it. No one saw Jesus rise from the dead, contrary to the impression given by certain pictures which suggest the opposite.

The resurrection is the core Christian belief. But the basic Christian attitude is not belief in a set of doctrines (the Creed, for example), but a personal relationship with and commitment to Jesus Christ. This relationship is described by the Fourth Evangelist as one of love, hence *the disciple Jesus loved* is the one shown as being closest to him. Mary Magdalene figures prominently in the story of Easter morning, which suggests that she falls into the same category. They are provided as models for us to reflect on and hopefully to imitate. ■



LEARN

The Easter message is *Christ is risen!* - Not Jesus is alive!

Alleluia is made up of two Hebrew words: *Allelu* is a plural command meaning *Praise!*; *Yah* is a form of the divine name and means the Lord. *Alleluia* therefore means *Praise the Lord!*

Mary Magdalene is called in Christian tradition *the apostle of the apostles*.

In the Fourth Gospel, 'the disciple whom Jesus loved', and who is regarded as a special source of the Gospel's tradition, is never identified by the name of John

SAY

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Think of your baptism and renew your friendship with the Risen Christ.

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

Parish website: www.stcolmans.org
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

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

Easter Sunday

Sunday Mass Times

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

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon – No Liturgy of the word

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 1: None

Sun 8: Jack Cunningham
Alex McAleenan

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 1: Mary Mulgrew
Michael Canavan, Strabane

Sun 8: Anne Prentice
Patricia Wilson

Offertory Promise Collection £1106.82

Readers - Dromore

Sun 8: Caroline Rooney

Recently Baptised

Ciara Geraldine Delaney

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 as soon as possible.

Collectors: All Saints – April

Noel Burns & Anne McEvoy

Sick Visits

The sick will be visited during the week

Confirmation

Will take place on Sun 15th of April at 11am in St Colmans Church, Dromore.

Sunday 1st April 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 49

£100	Hugh Pat McCusker	295
£50	Bernadette Jenkins	096
£30	Brian Mulholland	098
£20	Melvin McClenaghan	121

Ballela GAC Lotto

This week's lotto Numbers will be in next week's bulletin.

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.

Weight Watchers

New Weight Watchers class will take place in St Colmans Hall, Dromore every Tues morning starting 10th April at 10am. For inquiries contact Orla on 07986326099.

Annaclone PS & All Saints N.U

Thank you to everyone who donated, baked, bought, sold, organised, and spent to make our Easter Fayre a success. We raised a massive £2001.35 this year - up £350 from last year. This was a marvellous effort and we appreciate the community support of our fayre.

Lough Derg One Day Retreats

Dates are available in leaflets at back of church. Pilgrims keep footwear on. No fasting. A guided day of prayer and reflection. Refreshments on arrival and a light lunch are served. Admission 45 Euros.

Prayer For Easter

I believe with all my strength and hope in Jesus Christ, who was born of the virgin Mary, suffered death, was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He is Risen! Alleluia!