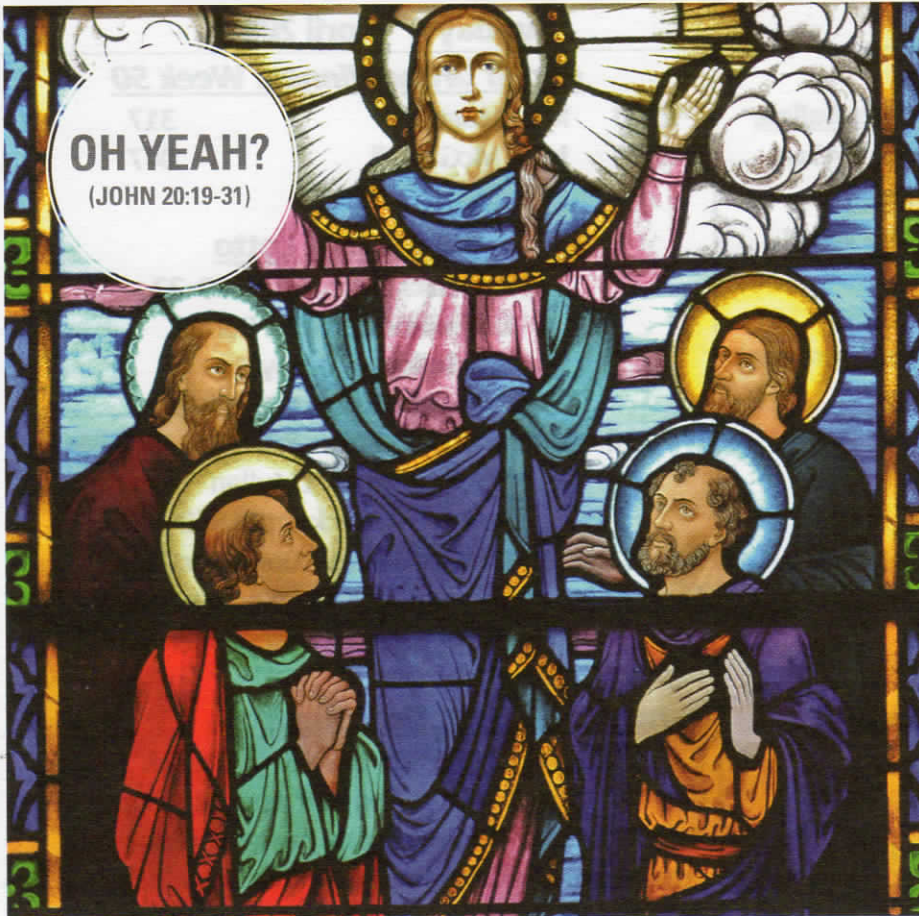


THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



Stained glass window from 1899 depicting the Risen Christ with his disciples

Faith is a journey. The disciple Jesus loved came to believe when he saw the empty cloths in the empty tomb. Now Jesus makes himself present to the wider group of disciples.

Mary Magdalene has brought them the news of the resurrection, in which she now believes because she has herself encountered the risen Lord, so they are aware of it, but they have not experienced for themselves the risen Jesus. They are still fearful and hiding from the authorities. Jesus' showing of the wounds in his body emphasises that the person who was crucified and buried is one and the same with the one now present among them. However, this person is no longer bound by time and space. Jesus confers on them the gift of his peace and then commissions them to continue his mission. It is at this point that the disciples become apostles: up to now, in the Fourth Gospel, they have had no share in Jesus' ministry. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on them to support them in their task, as he had already promised.

Thomas, the sceptical disciple, has also to complete his journey. Like the other characters in the story, he does not come to full belief simply on the word or testimony of other people. He demands proof, which Jesus offers. There is no evidence in the Gospel text, however, that Thomas actually touches Jesus; the experience of his presence is enough to bring him from a place of unbelief to faith. Mary Magdalene had also to let go of her desire to hold on to the Jesus she had known. The only one who believes without seeing Jesus is the disciple Jesus loved, the figure who represents the individual persons who commit themselves to Jesus in later times without seeing.

Those who believe in later generations do so on the authority of the Scriptures, including the word of the Gospel that Jesus rose – as do Peter and the other disciple at the empty tomb. And they do this in the physical absence of Jesus. The Gospel tells us that even those who apparently had the advantage of experiencing first-hand the risen Lord still struggled, like us, to believe. ■

REFLECT

The opposite of faith is not doubt but certainty. Doubt or questioning is one of the ways in which our understanding of what we believe actually grows: it makes us think about God and the way in which we appreciate our faith. Very often this does not involve questioning the basics but rather the way in which doctrine is presented and how we have always understood it. What is valid for a child is not usually sufficient for an adult. Thomas the apostle could have accepted the word of the others that Jesus was risen, but then he would not have had the powerful experience which the evangelist describes. He is sceptical of their message and it is this attitude which allows Jesus to lead him into a deeper faith and relationship with him. Perhaps we need to keep faith with our doubts and questions. ■

LEARN

The opposite of faith is not doubt but certainty.

For John the Evangelist, there is a moment when the person decides to believe: but that is only the beginning of their journey in faith.

The forgiving or retaining of sins refers at the time of the writing of the Gospel to baptism: to accept baptism means to have one's sins forgiven. To refuse baptism means that sin is not forgiven.

The characters in the Fourth Gospel represent different kinds of people and their reaction to Jesus and his message.

DO

After Communion today, reflect that Jesus is as close to you now as he was to the disciples when he appeared to them after his Resurrection.

Pray each day this week for the gift of a more lively faith.

If you do not have a copy of the Bible, buy at least a copy of the New Testament this week and read part of it each day.

SAY

My Lord and my God!

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

Devine Mercy 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 & 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 8: Jack Cunningham
Alex McAleenan

Sun 15: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 8: Anne Prentice
Patricia Wilson

Sun 15: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1861.54

Readers - Dromore

Sun 15: Eibhlin Scott

Confirmation

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

Whist Whist will take place on Sun 15th of April in St Colmans hall, Dromore at 8.30pm. ladies to supply pastry: Trudy Moreland & Maureen Brooker

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.

DROMORE DIOCESAN HISTORICAL

SOCIETY Monday 16th April at 7:30 pm. in St Peter's Parish Centre, Lurgan .The next event in the Society's 2018 programme is a lecture by **Dr Cormac McSparran, School of Archaeology, QUB** on "The Great Fort of Aghagallon, its location and extent: how old is it and how diverse is its history?". In the summer of 2017 Dr McSparran and his team began a focused dig on land to the rear of St Patrick's Church Aghagallon.

Sunday 8th April 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 50

£500	May Magee	317
£500	John McGarrell	047

Ballela GAC Lotto

Last weeks Lotto: 9 16 20 22

£10 winner: Sinead Burns

Seller John Doyle

This weeks Lotto: 6 8 11 21

£10 winners: Tracey Burns & Barney McCusker

Seller Gary McMullan

Next weeks Jackpot £1820

Easter Raffle: Hamper winner- Donal McCann
First senior match against Leitrim on Monday at 6.45pm and Camogs away to Longstone Monday night at 6.45pm.

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 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. It's a 3 Hour first aid course with certificate for all attendees. You also get a Free first aid kit and manual. Trainees should bring **Associated Farm Business Number**. Only **4 places left**. To book a place ring Patricia O'Rourke: 0771293385.

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.