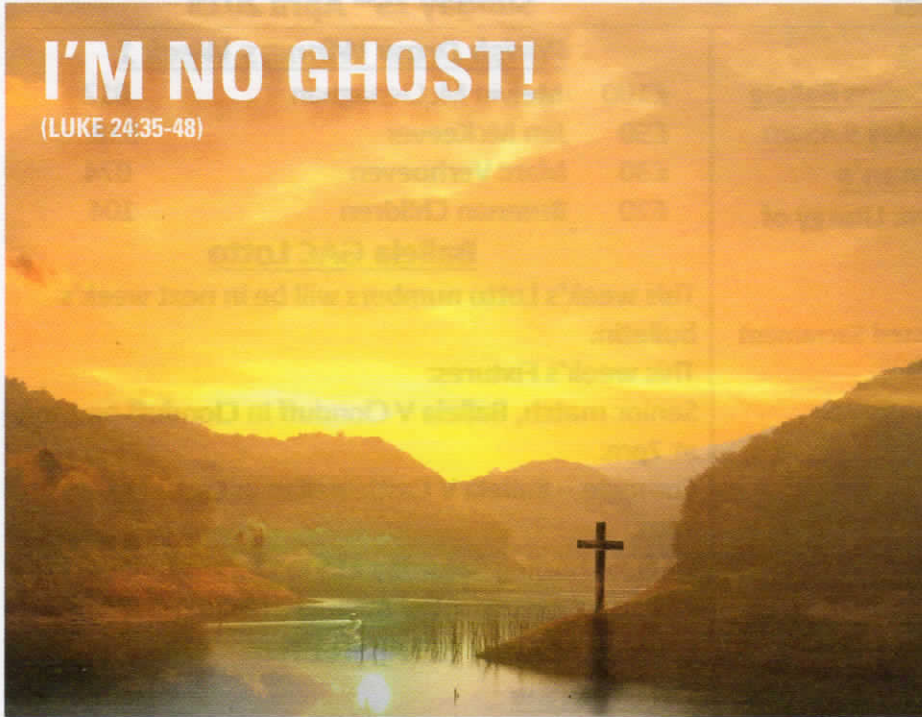


THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

I'M NO GHOST!

(LUKE 24:35-48)



The two disciples who encountered the risen Jesus on the way to Emmaus have returned to Jerusalem and tell the others about their experience.

The Jesus they met was so different to the person they had known that they did not recognise him. In that story, Luke was underlining that Jesus was not resuscitated, like Lazarus, and brought back to the life he had lost, but now exists in a different kind of life. In the episode today, we are confronted with the other side of the resurrection coin, that it is indeed the same person who was crucified and buried who is now truly present among his disciples. Jesus is really present, but in a different way. He challenges them to touch his hands and his feet as proof – there is no mention here of wounds from the nails of the crucifixion. His eating of the fish also suggests a presence different to that of a ghost or spirit. But Luke is still portraying through narrative the life of the resurrection. The disciples simply cannot believe what they are seeing; they are overcome with joy. This apparent lack of belief is not the same as that which occurred during Jesus' ministry.

For Luke, Jerusalem is not simply a physical city: it is the focus of Jesus' journey, the place where God's plan of salvation will be worked out. He had said himself that it was not fitting that a prophet should perish outside Jerusalem. The risen Jesus now commands his disciples to carry his message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all the nations, "beginning from Jerusalem". Instead of being the destination to which Jesus is heading on his mission, Jerusalem will become the starting point for the disciples' mission to the Gentiles and will lose its significance in the process. The scene is set for Act Two of Luke's Gospel story in the Acts of the Apostles. That will commence with the final act in the Paschal Mystery at the feast of Pentecost. ■

LEARN

For Luke, Jerusalem is the place where the divine plan will be brought to its fulfilment.

To understand the Gospels properly, we need to bear in mind the Old Testament background: So at Mass, the first reading from the Jewish Scriptures is connected with the Gospel and sheds light on it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus explains what happened to him in the light of the Jewish Scriptures, which we call the Old Testament

REFLECT

Catholics are familiar with the expression 'The Real Presence'. This refers to the presence of Christ in the Eucharistic bread reserved in the tabernacle. It tells us that Christ is truly (or *really*) present there. However, it can have the unfortunate and unintended consequence that we imagine that the Lord is *only* to be found among us in that particular way, that any other kind of presence is somehow unreal. This is not to say that people positively believe this, but we can slip into a way of thinking which limits the divine presence to special places and occasions, for instance Mass in church on Sunday. Somehow the Lord is absent from our lives for most of the time.

One of the lessons of Easter is that Christ cannot be limited by time and space or confined within human or earthly boundaries. This applies to theological and other kinds of speculation as well. We might reflect on the saying that 'bidden or unbidden, God is present'. ■

DO

Open a Bible which has cross-references for the Gospels: notice how often the Old Testament is quoted or alluded to. Look up some of these references and see if this sheds light on the Gospel passage you are reading.



SAY

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday Mass Times

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

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur & Fri- 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

No Mass during the week

Sat – 10-11am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 15: None

Sun 22: Barney Doyle

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 15: None

Sun 22: Larry McDonald (Months Mind)

William John Mulgrew

Gerard & Maura Eadie

Gerald, Sarah, Patsy & kitty Mackin

Offertory Promise Collection £753.33

Readers - Dromore

Sun 22: Colin Skillen

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.

Lourdes Mass

Mass in All Saints, Ballela on **Friday 27th April** at 7.30pm for all sick and pilgrims travelling to Lourdes. Annual Door collection will take place on Sun 13th May.

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.

Sunday 15th April 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 1

£100	Melvin McClenaghan	012
£50	Jim McKeever	518
£30	Marc Verhoeven	074
£20	Brennan Children	104

Ballela GAC Lotto

This week's Lotto numbers will be in next week's bulletin.

This week's Fixtures:

Senior match, Ballela V Clonduff in Clonduff on Mon at 7pm.

Comogie – Ballela V Castlewellan in Castlewellan at 7pm.

P4 & P6 hurling Saturday 21st in Clonduff.

Ballela Community Group

Meeting Monday 16th April at 7pm.

Parish Draw

The new Parish Draw began 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 take's place in St Colmans Hall, Dromore every Tues morning starting at 10am. For inquiries contact Orla on 07986326099.

Do This in Memory

Will take place on Sun 29th of April in both churches.

Life In The Spirit Seminar

You are warmly invited to an eight week Life In The Spirit Seminar with guest lay and ordained speakers starting on Thursday 19th April at 8 pm for eight Thursdays in the Kilmegan Centre, beside St Malachy's Church, Castlewellan. Come along and rediscover the power that Jesus gives His people through the Holy Spirit. Everyone welcome.

Tea & Chat

Will take place on Sun 29th April in St Colmans hall after 11am Mass.