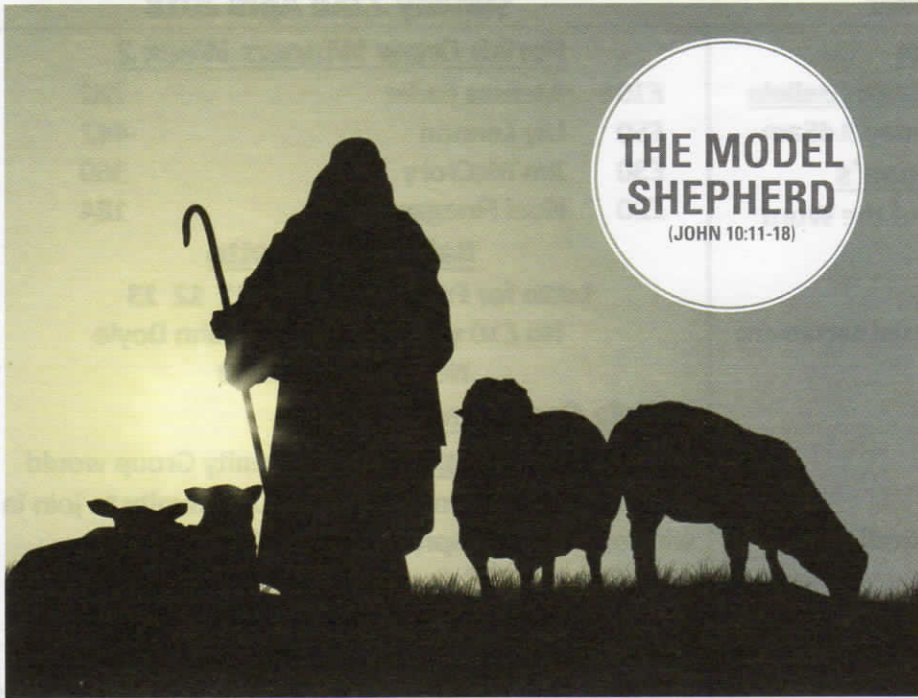


## THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4



### THE MODEL SHEPHERD

(JOHN 10:11-18)

The image of the shepherd is often used in the Bible to describe the kings or other leaders of the people of Israel.

However, it is frequently used in a negative sense to accuse such people of abusing their position of authority and trust to exploit the people to their own advantage. Jesus here is contrasting himself with those who really do not care for the flock and abandon their post when the going gets tough.

Jesus describes himself as the model shepherd, one who has a deep, intimate relationship with each of the members of the flock. His commitment to the flock goes to the supreme sacrifice of laying down his life for them. The relationship between Jesus and the flock is that Jesus will freely die a violent death but take up his life again because the Father loves him. The prophet Ezekiel had looked forward to a shepherd-messiah like David, who would gather the people as one flock under one shepherd. Jesus presents himself as the one who fulfils this scripture by his unconditional self-giving and taking up his life again. But all this is at the command of the Father: in all things Jesus is obedient to the Father's will. There is also a broader dimension to the mission of Jesus: it encompasses also sheep who are not of the fold of Israel. The idea of who the Messiah is and what his mission is broadened well beyond what the people of the time were expecting. ■

## LEARN

The Lord is called *The Shepherd of Israel* in the Hebrew Scriptures.

The kings and leaders of the people of Israel are described as the shepherds of the people.

The fourth Gospel presents Jesus as very much aware of the close relationship between himself and the Father.

The only commandment in the Fourth Gospel is that the disciples love one another as Jesus has loved them.

## SAY

**I know my own sheep and my own know me.**



## DO

Make a list of what you expect a model shepherd to be. Discuss this with other parishioners. Make your views known the next time a vacancy for a priest for your parish or bishop for your diocese arises.

## REFLECT

Some words are used so often and in so many different contexts that they lose any real meaning. One such word is the adjective *good*. What do we mean if we describe Jesus as 'the good shepherd'? The word used in the Gospel has more the sense of *model, ideal or authentic*. What Jesus is saying is that he is the model shepherd for his disciples.

In this part of the world, the shepherd walks behind the flock, which is kept in line by a dog. In the biblical world, the shepherd walks in front and the

sheep follow. In the Gospel reading the relationship between Jesus and the disciples is compared with that of Jesus and the Father, which John the evangelist presents as one of close intimacy. Another word for shepherd is *pastor*. Pastors have a responsibility, a 'duty of care' for those members of the Church entrusted to them. Another term for the Church is the *People of God*. Perhaps we need to reflect more on the relationship between the members of the People of God and see authority more in terms

of service and charity than of power. Authority basically means enabling people to grow. If Jesus is described as the model shepherd then he is the yardstick against whom anyone who holds authority in the Church, among the People of God, is to be measured. Someone pointed out once that in our culture the flock is made up of female members controlled by a male with a black coat and white collar: Jesus' image is rather more inclusive, positive and encouraging. ■

## PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 22nd April 2018

#### 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** :Mass – 9.30am

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

#### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 22:** Barney Doyle

**Sun29:** None

#### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 22:** Larry McDonald (Months Mind)

William John Mulgrew

Gerard & Maura Eadie

Gerald, Sarah, Patsy & kitty Mackin

**Sun 29:** None

**Offertory Promise Collection** £900.72

#### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 29:** Ciara Cunningham

#### Lourdes Mass

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

#### Tea & Chat

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

#### Pope Francis is coming to Ireland

Pope Frances is coming to Ireland to participate in the World Meeting of Families 2018 and confirmed dates that Pope Frances will be participating in include:

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Attendance at the WMOF Festival of Families in Croke Park.

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Celebration of the WMOF Final Mass in Phoenix Park.

These are ticketed events and you must have a ticket to attend. Tickets are **FREE** and to order go online to:[www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 2

£100	Melissa Eadie	282
£50	Lily Lennon	442
£30	Jim McCrory	360
£20	Noel Finegan	184

#### Ballela GAC Lotto

**Lotto for Fri 13<sup>th</sup> April : 1 11 12 13**

No £10 winners. Seller John Doyle

Next jackpot £1850

#### Ballela Community Group

**"Spring Clean-up"** The Community Group would like to invite all members of the Community to join in with our annual **"Spring Clean-up"**. Meet at the school on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am and you will be provided with litter pickers and rubbish bags. We see this as an opportunity to lift litter around our roads and make the countryside a nicer place to live in. So if you have an hour or so to spare come and join us.

#### Do This in Memory

Will take place on Sun 29<sup>th</sup> of April in both churches.

#### Seapatrik - 10k and 5k Run and Fun Walk

On Sun 29<sup>th</sup> April: 10k Run starts at 11am and 5k Fun Walk starts at 11.15am. Register at [www.athleticsni.org](http://www.athleticsni.org) by 27<sup>th</sup> April £15/£8/£5 or in St Patrick's College Banbridge on 28<sup>th</sup> April from 2-4pm £18/£10/£7 or on the day from 8.30am – 10.30am. Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and medals for all finishers. All Proceeds go to St Patricks High School and St Mary's P.S. Banbridge

**New Weightwatchers Class** Do you want to get in shape for summer? Why not join our local, friendly Weightwatchers class every Tues morning in St Colmans Hall at 10am. Come along for a cup of tea and get tips and ideas to get you moving in the right direction. Contact Orla: 07986326099.

**Dromore Women's League** Are hosting a Visitor's Evening on Thur 24<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm. The speaker for the evening will be Drew McWilliams, a skilled photographer and raconteur! If any ladies would like to attend please contact Mary Burns Tel: 07917517520 by 10<sup>th</sup> May to arrange the catering.