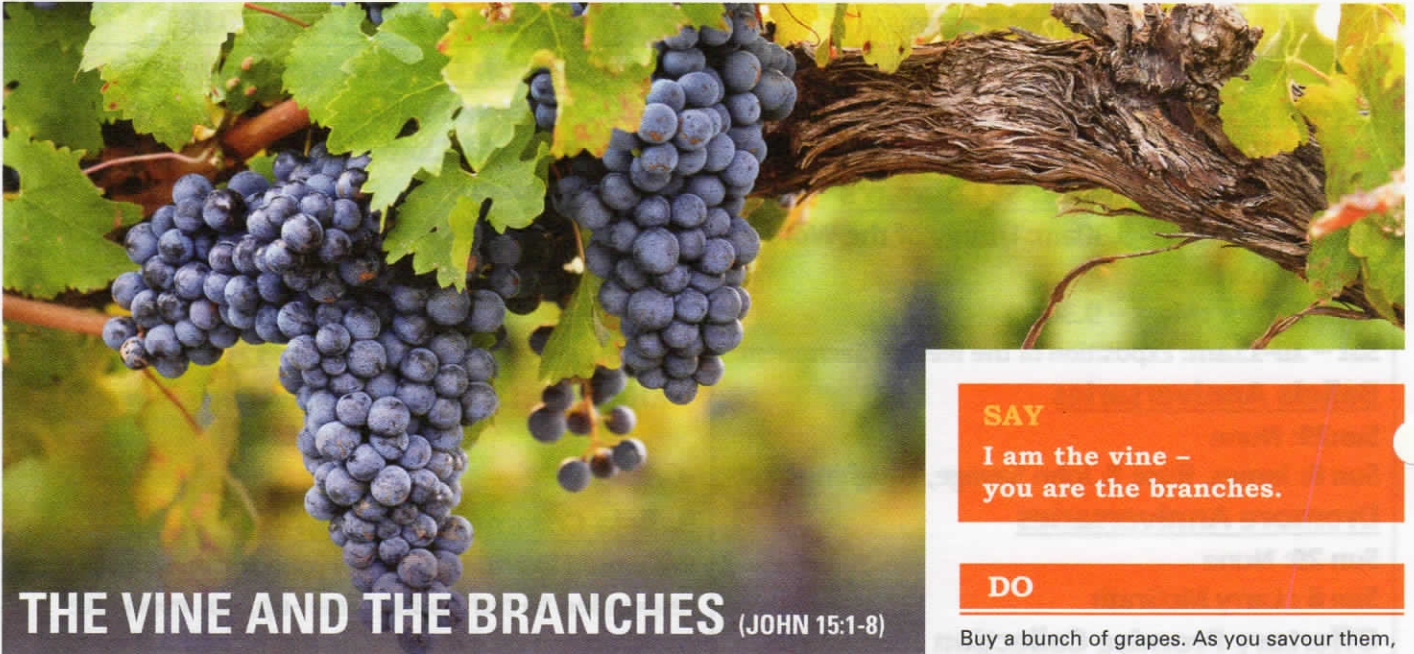


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES (JOHN 15:1-8)

The image of the vine and the branches is one which speaks of close union and intimacy. It is one of life flowing from one part of the plant to the others.

For disciples to bear fruit means their remaining united to Jesus, the true vine. They are pruned, or made clean, by the word of Jesus which they have accepted. But the Father is involved in this process, pruning those branches which are fruitful so that they will bear even more, and cutting off those who have become separated from the source of vitality and fertility. The harvest Jesus is referring to is the result of the disciples' carrying out Jesus' command to love. This remaining in Jesus is therefore something which the disciple actively does: it is not a state of being. Being a disciple also involves growth, as suggested by the image of the vine. The vine and its branches are living: if something stops growing, it dies. If the disciple remains in Jesus and his words, which are God's revelation, then they will give life. But the disciple must remain connected to Jesus and his teaching.

This fruitful union between Jesus and his disciples, then and now, leads to the glory of the Father. It is to the Father that Jesus always looks and refers. The disciples are to repeat, in their relationship with Jesus, what Jesus had with the Father: a loving mutuality shown by the unconditional observing of his commandments. ■

SAY

I am the vine –
you are the branches.

DO

Buy a bunch of grapes. As you savour them, reflect on how they are the product of the close union of the branch which produced them and the trunk which provided the nourishment. Think about your personal relationship with Jesus.

LEARN

The vine is a common image for the people of Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures.

The vineyard is used by Jesus as a metaphor for the people of Israel.

The only moral command given in the Four Gospels is "Love one another as I have loved you."

Wine in abundance is used as a symbol of the Messianic Kingdom: this is the meaning of the first Sign at Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine.

REFLECT

On these Sundays in Eastertide, the Scriptures invite us to reflect on our personal relationship with Jesus. It is easy to think of being a disciple as doing certain things or living in a certain kind of way, perhaps one which distinguishes us from the people around us. But if we read the Gospel of John carefully, we find that there is very little of what we might call moral instruction: there is no long Sermon on the Mount as in Matthew's account. The only command which we find is one which sums up

everything: "Love one another as I have loved you."

It is no accident that the Fourth Evangelist has chosen the image of the vine and the branches to illustrate what the Church, the People of God, should be. The vine is alive and growing. It is fruitful, producing grapes which give wine, a source of joy and conviviality to human beings. To be at its most healthy, the branches need to be tended, pruned where necessary to keep them at their most productive. But the branches are not self-sufficient:

they draw their life from the trunk. This is the lesson the evangelist wants to put before us: unless we as individuals keep the personal channel of communication open between ourselves and Jesus, then our life as a disciple is compromised and the life and fruitfulness of the community, of the vine, is diminished; it is not as healthy as it ought to be. Pope John XXIII said that "we are not here to look after a museum, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life." Is our corner of the vineyard a museum or a flourishing garden? ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Fifth 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, 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

Sun29: None

Sun 6: James, Rose & John Savage, Loughinisland

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 29: None

Sun 6 : Larry McGrath

Offertory Promise Collection £869.57

Readers - Dromore

Sun 6: Clare Downey

Church Collectors-All Saints – May

Gary Doyle & Paul Rooney

Tea & Chat

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

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 25th Aug: Attendance at the WMOF Festival of Families in Croke Park.

Sun 26th 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

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited during the week.

Sunday 29nd April 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 3

£100	Peter verhoeven	078
£50	Betty McClure	143
£30	Louis Boyle	025
£20	Margaret Jess	031

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto for Fri 20th April 5 12 16 17

£10 winner: Sean Burns. Seller: Anglers Rest
Next jackpot £1880

Ballela Community Group

We would like to thank everyone for the tremendous responded to our Spring Clean-up, not everyone could attend on sat morning but picked a time and date which suited them and as everyone was requested to send us a photo we hope to have a few pictures of our helpers displayed in the church porch.

Do This in Memory

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

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 24th 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 10th May to arrange the catering.

Adoption

Family Care Adoption Services is presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For a free information pack please contact us at : 02871368592/02890691133