

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

UP AND AWAY?

(MARK 16:15-20)



Bas-relief of the Basilica of Fatima representing the Ascension of Jesus

The Gospel of Mark proper actually ends with the statement that (the women) “went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

Not the most satisfactory ending to the story of the Good News, you might think. Clearly other people were of that opinion and added details from other parts of the tradition, probably sometime in the second century. They included an appearance of the risen Jesus to Mary Magdalene and

an episode resembling the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Today’s Gospel reading comprises the last few verses of this addition to Mark’s authentic text.

Like the ending of Matthew’s account, Jesus commissions the eleven remaining disciples to go out and preach the Gospel to all people. After this, Jesus was taken up into heaven and enthroned in glory at God’s right hand, while the disciples set out to fulfil his commands. The ascension is the narrative and visual way of expressing the belief that Jesus now exists in a different

way to that by which the disciples knew him in his ministry. The apostle Paul talks about God highly exalting Jesus because of his obedience and commitment to his mission: the evangelists decided to express their understanding of Jesus in story form and so have to depict this aspect as an event.

What we might ponder from this reading is that the last words of Jesus to his disciples contain a missionary charge. But the ascension is not the end of the Paschal Mystery or event: Pentecost is yet to come, the Easter story is not yet over. ■

REFLECT

For people of today, the ascension raises several obvious questions, such as: where did Jesus go? And where is Jesus now? If we say, following the texts of the Gospels, that Jesus is in *heaven*, what we really mean is that Jesus is in the presence of God. This, taken with the teaching about the Second Coming at the end of time, suggests that Jesus is absent as far as we are concerned. The Gospel text which says that Jesus’ disciples will fast when the bridegroom is taken away from them has at times been applied to the ascension and used to justify severe penitential practices in certain religious orders.

If we take the wider Gospel tradition, we find that the ascension of Jesus is connected to the sending of the Holy Spirit and we are encouraged in the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray for the renewal of the Church by the Spirit. The disciples have been commissioned to spread the Gospel, but they do not have to rely on their own efforts alone. The Spirit will be the driving force behind their efforts. That they are succeeding will be shown by people being baptised, expressing outwardly that they have accepted inwardly the preaching of the word and are willing to accept it. We may ourselves not be called to bear witness in such a direct manner, but as disciples of Jesus we are commissioned to bear witness to the faith into which we were once baptised and to which we assented once more at Easter. ■

LEARN

There are two aspects to the resurrection of Jesus: the idea of return to life, and that this life is of a different and glorified order to the one the disciples experienced during his ministry.

The Empty Tomb stories express the return to life: this emphasises that the same Jesus who was crucified and buried is the one who is risen.

The appearance and ascension scenes tell us that Jesus is not simply resuscitated to bodily life but has been transformed and now enjoys a different kind of existence.

With the ascension, the appearances of Jesus come to an end: no further public revelation is to be expected.

DO

When you find yourself in a lift, on an escalator or just going upstairs, think of Jesus ascending to the presence of God. You are Jesus’ disciple: how are you fulfilling his command to bear witness to the Gospel?

SAY

The ascension of Christ is our glory and our hope.

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

Ascension Of The Lord

Sunday 13th May 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 & Thurs :Mass – 9.30am

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 13: Myrtle McCusker

Jimmy Cosgrave

Mary Alice McEvoy

Sun 20: Jim & Lucy McAleenan

Clare Priestly

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 13: Johnnie Prentice

Richard Catney

Philomena & Francie McCrory

Patricia McCann

Sun 20: Jack & Jim Moreland

Jim & Sally Cunningham

Offertory Promise Collection £1024.74

Readers - Dromore

Sun 20: Aileen Gracey

Recently Baptised

Ezra Rafal Stasys

Recently Deceased

Esme Gilmore, Fortfield, Dromore.

First Holy Communion

Will take place on Sun 3rd June at 11am in St
Colmans Church Dromore.

All Saints, Ballela - Communion Tea

To Celebrate the First Holy Communion of Noah
& Malachy we will be having refreshments in the
school after Mass on Sun 20th May. Everyone is
welcome.

Parish Draw Winners Week 5

£100	Josephine Mulligan	107
£50	Hugh Pat McCusker	295
£30	Brendan McCann	118
£20	Seamus Mallon	522

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto for Fri 4th May: 15 16 18 20

No £10 winner's: Seller: Gary McMullan

Next jackpot £1940

Ballela Community Group "Pilates Class"

Pilates Class will continue with another block of 6
weeks Classes. If you are interested please phone
Sara on: 07928674733 as there are a few spaces
available, cost £54 for the 6 weeks starting Tues 15th
May at 7pm in Ballela school.

Meeting Mon 14th May at 7pm

ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

VOCATIONS EVENT

Seapatrck Pastoral Area (Banbridge, Donaghmore,

Tullylish, Aghaderg and Annaclone)

A special prayer event for vocations will be held in St
Mary's Church Barr on Sunday 13th May 2018

Commencing with Eucharistic Adoration from 10.45
up to 11.15am. The Celebration of the Eucharist will
commence at 11.30am and will be followed by light
refreshments. Please come, pray for vocations and
become involved.

Barn Dance & B-B-Q

Eileen, Kate & Caroline welcome you to their Barn
Dance & B-B-Q In aid if Action Cancer which will be
held on sat 19th May at 8.30pm at 38 Shanrod Rd,
BT32 5PQ. Admission £10 with licensed Bar facilities.

Cemetery Mass

Dromore : Mon 11th June, 7.30pm

Ballela : Wed 13th June, 7.30pm

At both Churches there will be a collection; proceeds
will be used for cutting and maintenance at both
cemeteries, please be as generous as you can.