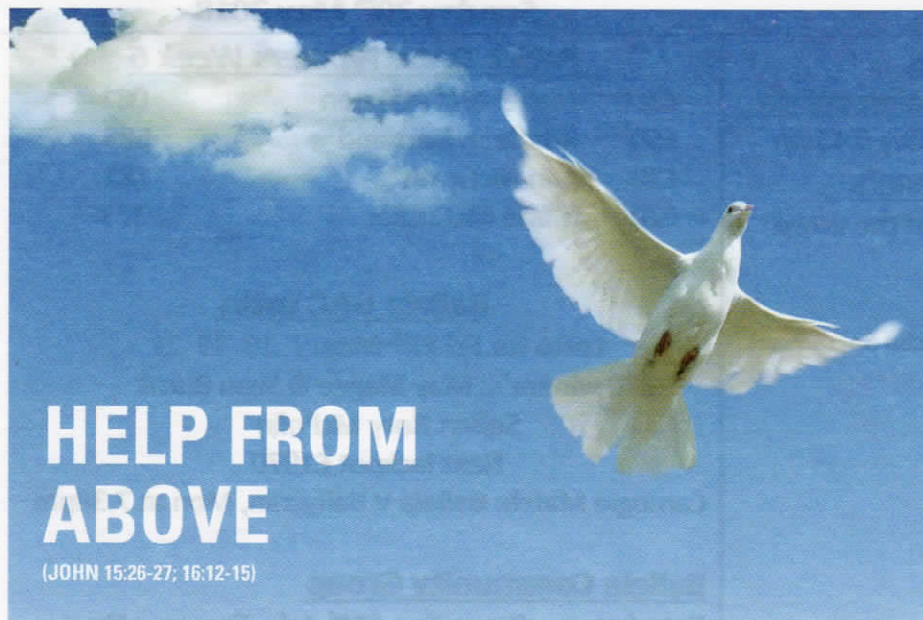


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Red • Psalter Week 3



HELP FROM ABOVE

(JOHN 15:26-27; 16:12-15)

The Gospel reading about the Paraclete presents quite a different picture to that of Luke in Acts.

There is no demonstration of power, no tongues of fire or the crowds being amazed by the disciples' speaking in tongues. Instead, we are confronted by a figure who will act as a guide, deepening the disciples' understanding of what Jesus has been teaching them. The Spirit will act as Jesus has done in regard to the Father, speaking what he received from the Father. So Jesus' challenge to the world will continue and will provoke the same hostile reaction which will be directed this time at the disciples.

The Spirit will preserve and inform the disciples' memory of Jesus' words, his teaching. The Spirit will lead them into a deeper understanding of the meaning of his words and their implication for them. The truth which is mentioned in the Gospel is belief in Jesus as the sole revelation of God and the one who speaks the words of God. The Spirit will help the disciples fulfil Jesus' instruction that "if you remain in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." ■

DO

As daylight fades, switch on the light. Think about how it enables you to function, and consider all the things you can do which are difficult, if not impossible, in the dark. Do you prefer darkness to light? How far do you allow the Holy Spirit to influence you daily life?

LEARN

What does the term *Spirit* contribute to our way of talking about God?

There is no grammatical reason to use the masculine pronoun *he* in relation to the Holy Spirit in the Gospel. The pronoun *she* would make as much (or as little) sense. God is a mystery.

The gender of the word for *Spirit* in the New Testament is neuter: the most appropriate pronoun, grammatically, would be *it*.

The gender of the word for *Spirit* in the Old Testament is feminine: the most appropriate pronoun, grammatically, would be *she*.

In the Old Testament, the *Spirit* is usually represented by symbols of power.

SAY

**Come, Holy Spirit.
Fill my heart and mind.**

REFLECT

A common observation about Catholics is that their understanding of their faith has not developed in the same way or to the same extent as their knowledge in other spheres of life. Many people's appreciation of the faith has remained at the level of primary school. This is not to say that this is true in all cases, and in recent years there have been great efforts made to provide adult education in areas of study concerned with the faith. It is perhaps encouraging that Jesus told his disciples that not even he had been able to teach them everything and that their education would continue after his departure and be guided by the Paraclete, the Spirit of truth.

The biblical presentation of the Spirit of the Lord is usually one of a driving power: this is very much the Hebrew Scriptures' idea. The Spirit seizes upon the hero who will do great things for the people of Israel against their enemies. The Spirit in Luke's book of Acts empowers the disciples to go out and preach, thus spreading the word.

But this section of the Gospel suggests another role for the Spirit. Perhaps Jesus shares the view that 'humankind cannot bear very much reality': many of us may remember being overwhelmed by some sudden realisation which seemed to turn all our previous understanding upside down. Sometimes a gradual dawning

of the true meaning of something we have always known allows us to see it in a different light, without being afraid that our whole world is about to come crashing down about us. This can be particularly true when we start to think more deeply about what we believe. It is then crucial that we are able to distinguish the essential teachings of the faith from what is of lesser importance, and the substance from the way in which it is presented. It is then that we need the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, which is there if we ask for it and are open to where the Spirit leads us. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Pentecost 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 & Thurs :Mass – 9.30am

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 20: Jim & Lucy McAleenan
Clare Priestly

Sun27: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 20: Jack & Jim Moreland
Jim & Sally Cunningham

Sun 27: Tom Mackin
James McGreevy
Cecilia Mallon

Offertory Promise Collection £947.81

Readers - Dromore

Sun 27: Grainne Killiner

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 today Sun 20th May. Everyone
welcome.

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.

Whist

Whist will take place on Sun 20th Mat at 8.30pm
in St Colmans Hall Dromore. Ladies to supply
pastry: deirdre Downey & Caroline Rooney.

Sunday 20th May 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 6

| | | |
|------|-------------------|-----|
| £100 | Mabel McCutcheon | 081 |
| £50 | Rosaleen Gartland | 585 |
| £30 | Ann McGrath | 181 |
| £20 | Marie McCusker | 373 |

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto for Fri 11th May: 7 18 19 21

£10 winner's: May Magee & Sean Burns

Seller: Rory McPolin

Next jackpot £1970

Camogie Match: Ballela V Ballycran, Mon at 7.30pm

Ballela Community Group

Date for your Diary: **Sun 22nd, July, Treasure Hunt**
with afternoon tea. We hope to make this event a
fund raiser for **NI Air Ambulance** a vital response
emergency service which was launched in July 2017
and provides outstanding critical care where and
when needed most.

Trócaire

Total amount raised this year for Trócaire was £2844.
Thank you for your generosity.

DROMANTINE FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 10TH JUNE 2018

1.30 pm – 6.00 pm

ATTRACTION Grand Draw, Country & Western
Extravaganza, Vintage Tractors, Magician,
Funfair, Bouncy Castles, Stalls, BBQ, Refreshments
and much more!

Admission £5 Donation per car.

Everyone Welcome.