



THE PARABLE OF THE SEEDS

(MARK 4:26-34)

Today we have two similarly themed parables concerning the growing of seeds.

The first parable is about the seed that grows secretly. The farmer plants the seed and then forgets about it and goes about his daily business. Under very little supervision, the seed grows and thrives until the farmer returns and cultivates his crop. The growth of the seed is a great mystery and the farmer places great trust in the fertility of the soil to bring about the change in the seed. Likewise, Jesus sowed the great seed of God's Word and that Word continues to grow and flourish throughout the world. Like the farmer, we place our trust in the activity of God to spread the Word but the growth of the Word is still one of the great mysteries of our faith.

The story of the mustard seed is even more enthralling. The seed is so small and insignificant that it is almost invisible in the ground. And yet it has the capacity to transform into the largest of plants. For many Christians in the early church, the mustard seed symbolised Christ himself crucified, leading to the power of the resurrection (Bishop Robert Barron, www.wordonfire.org). Christ who came from humble beginnings will transform the world by his sacrifice on the cross and his rising from the dead. Jesus preached these parables so that the disciples might understand the power of humble beginnings. ■

REFLECT

As I write this, it is rainy season in Northern Mozambique where thunderstorms are like nothing I have ever seen. Seed planting takes place now, and hundreds upon hundreds of farmers will begin their work of ploughing and planting until the shadows of the evening come. They plant maize, which is the staple diet for the whole country and even for a large part of Africa. I'm always intrigued by the importance of this planting stage of farming and the subsequent waiting that happens over many months. So much can potentially go wrong with the crops and yet the farmers will pray and trust in the growth of their plants, which will eventually sustain families and give life. I think what

I appreciate most is the faith of the people who believe that God will provide.

There are certain times during the Gospels when the disciples don't fully appreciate the gift of Christ's parables. This is perhaps one of those times as Jesus has to explain to the disciples in private what the message of the seeds is. But to ask anyone to place their trust in God, and to allow God to guide them, is a big ask! We like to be in control of our lives. Is it possible to hand everything over to God and say, "He will provide"? It requires great humility and trust to do so. The farmers who allow their seeds to grow and return later to cultivate know what it means to trust in God's work. ■

LEARN

"Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God." (St Francis de Sales)



DO

Read the Gospel again this week and reflect on the faith of the farmer who plants the seed and then returns some time later to cultivate.

SAY

O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things.

(St Ignatius of Loyola)

PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev Des Loughran: 07855741888
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

Parish website: www.stcolmans.org
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon
Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 17: Willie & Kathleen Rooney
Dan & Sadie McCusker

William, Margaret, John & Donald McCusker

Sun 24: Evelyn McAleenan
Johnny Doyle (Months Mins)

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 17: Stephen Magee
Dominic Downey
Helen Mulgrew

Sun 24: Armelle Devonport
Agnes & James Gribbin
Joy & Arthur Brooker
Cis & Mervyn McGuigan

Offertory Promise Collection £863.86

Readers - Dromore

Sun 24: John O'Hare

Whist Will take place on Sun 17th June at 8.30pm. Ladies to supply pastry: Bernadette Cunningham & Liz Cunningham.

Fr. Conor McConville

A collection will be taken up for Fr. Conor to recognise his service to our Parish. Envelopes are available at the back of the church which can be returned with the collection. Fr. Conor will return to celebrate Mass in Ballela and Dromore on **Sunday 24 June** and we would like all Parishioners to join us after Mass in Dromore for refreshments in St. Colmans hall.

Financial Report The Financial report for the last 2 years are now available at the back of the Church for you to take home with you, there is one copy for each household.

PHOENIX GAS There will be a public meeting in Dromore Town Hall on Thurs 28th June 3pm – 7pm, how construction activity may affect you.

Sunday 17th June 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 10

£500	Rosaleen Devlin	364
£500	Hester Robinson	322

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Fri 8th June: 2 3 7 24

No £10 winners, seller John Doyle.

Tractor Run will take place on Sun 24th June.

There will be a plaque for every tractor and a few spot prizes. Registration at noon. Run to start at 2pm sharp. Hot food BBQ along with tea, coffee and sandwiches, tuck shop and mini games. All Tractors welcome.

St Vincent de Paul

Can we help you? Do you know of any lonely individuals or anyone in financial difficulties within the local parish, who could benefit from a friendly visit or assistance?

Helpline number: 07738838187

Newry Cathedral Tour

Will take place on Wed 27th June at 2pm, tour will last approx. 90 mins. Please meet at the main door, you will hear the story of the building of the Cathedral, 1825-1829 and of the later extensions. The history of the stained glass, marble alters, sculptures and mosaics. There is no charge for the tour.

Children's Liturgy gets Messy!

Will take place on Tuesday mornings in Ballela School 10am -11.30am followed by tea and chat. Join us on Tues 10th, 17th & 24th July and 14th, 21st & 28th Aug. A chance for children, parents and grandparents to get together with craft, activities and lots of fun based on stories from the Bible. If you wish you can help with activities or make tea. Contact Jill/Michael on 40671401.

World Meeting Of Families 2018

Our Parish will be joining other parishes in the area for a joint pilgrimage to Phoenix Park on Sun 26th Aug. Attendance at this event will require tickets and registration. Full details are on the forms at the back of the Church. There is an application form for transport and information about the booking process in order to obtain tickets for the event. Parishioners have to obtain tickets themselves online.