



THE RETURN OF THE TWELVE

(MARK 6:30-34)

Painting of Jesus and his disciples by D. Nolet (1645) in St Jacob's Church, Bruges

The disciples return from their missionary work today and they are full of enthusiasm as they tell Jesus all they have done and taught.

Given their need for rest and food, Jesus suggests that they come away to a lonely place where they can recuperate and reflect on their time visiting the villages around Galilee. Some scripture scholars indicate that Mark's Gospel is unafraid to highlight the weaknesses and failings of the disciples. This is one of those times where the disciples seem to suggest that their teaching and their work has all taken place under their own authority and not the authority of Jesus. "They told him all that they had done and taught." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't chastise them but instead suggests a moment of reflection in an isolated place to reiterate the point that "they had gone on mission equipped with Jesus' authority, not their own" (Ciaran O' Callaghan CSsR). However, they don't reach their destination. Jesus will have to speak to them later. A crowd of people recognise Jesus in the boat and they gather at the shoreline to greet him. There is a hunger within them to hear Jesus speak. They are like sheep without a shepherd and Jesus is moved with compassion. His availability to teach and be with people is in itself a message to the accompanying disciples. This selfless and generous act of putting his own needs to one side is the essential part of missionary life with Jesus. ■

LEARN

"The Church is the visible plan of God's love for humanity because God desires that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit."

(Paul VI, June 22, 1973)

SAY

"Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head."

(St Charles Borromeo)

DO

Read the Gospel again and reflect on the compassion and care Jesus has for the crowd on the shoreline. What activities need to happen in our church to reflect the love of Christ?



REFLECT

There is a definite shift in Jesus' missionary activity today, as the crowds of people who see him and hear about his presence gather at the shoreline in the hope of catching a glimpse of the Son of David, the one sent by God. What precisely are the crowds looking for? Perhaps they are looking for an extraordinary sign of his power. The wind and the sea obey him after all, he can bring people back to life, and his way of speaking is nothing like people have heard before. Perhaps the people are

looking for a leader – someone who can guide them through life, a person who can offer words of encouragement and compassion.

Jesus provides leadership that brings people who were once far off, nearer to God through his flesh and blood. The Gospel of Mark creates this image of a large enthusiastic crowd of believers, and in doing so portrays God's mission of bringing the whole world closer to Jesus. The goal of the Gospels is this very

image. The nations of Israel will come to Jesus, they will gather, for in him they will see the face of God.

In many ways, we are all in search of solid leadership. We place our trust in competent politicians, religious leaders and others, but at times we are let down. The crowds that gather around Jesus today have also been let down by leadership. They are like sheep without a shepherd. But the shepherd has come. Jesus is present. In him we will find rest. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

Rev Feidhlimidh Magennis Tel: 07702665123
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

Sixteenth 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 22: None

Sun 29: Patrick, Daniel & Agnes McEvoy Kilkinamurphy
Bernard McEvoy, Coventry

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 22: None

Sun 29: Mary Murphy

Offertory Promise Collection £802.45

Readers - Dromore

Sun 29: Colin Skillen

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, 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. This week's theme is: Joseph and his Technicoloured Dream Coat.

Relics of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and her parents

The Carmelites have arranged that the relics of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin will come from Lisieux to Ireland to coincide with the World Meeting of Families 2018. The relics will return to Newry Cathedral on Saturday 11th August, arriving at 11.00 am. When the relics of Saint Thérèse last visited the cathedral, in May 2001, thousands of people came to venerate the saint's remains. The Relics will be at the WMOF2018 Opening Ceremony in the RDS, Dublin, on Tuesday, August 21, and they will also be in the sanctuary in the Phoenix Park for the Papal Mass on Sunday, August 26.

Sunday 22nd July 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 15

£100	Michael Finegan	257
£50	Sheila Cull	361
£30	Stephen Moreland	436
£20	M & A Brooker	370

Ballela Community Group

Treasure Hunt: Sun 22nd July

This year's event is 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 especially to rural communities. The Treasure Hunt starts off at 2pm from All Saints P.S and after everyone has worked out the clues they are invited back to the school for afternoon tea. If you don't wish to do the Treasure Hunt but still want to make a donation to the NI Air ambulance please come along and enjoy afternoon tea. Cost for Treasure Hunt is £5 per adult and children are Free, there are cash prizes for winners.

St Vincent de Paul annual Senior Citizens'

Lunch Will be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford at 2.30pm on Sun 19th Aug. Bus will leave Gallows St at 1.15pm and return at approximately 8.00pm. Those wishing to travel should complete forms in either Church porch or in Dromore parochial Hall. First come, First served as places are limited.

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

Thank You from Fr. Conor McConville

Just a word of thanks from Fr. McConville for all your support over the last 18 months and your generosity and best wishes on my leaving. All the best and God bless.