

## THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

## JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

(JOHN 6: 1-15)



We recall last Sunday's scene from Mark's Gospel where a large crowd of people gathered on the shoreline to greet Jesus and to hear his Word. A similar scene is presented in John's Gospel today as 5,000 people are waiting for Jesus after he crosses to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee.

They have heard about the signs he had performed by healing the sick and although the Gospel doesn't say it, we can presume that Jesus is moved with compassion and sits with them to share food. On the hillside, Jesus has a great view of the crowd around him, and instructs his disciples to organise the food. He is testing Philip when he asks, "where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?" Jesus already knows the answer but Philip is confused. Where would we get the money to feed such a crowd? "Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each." We can probably understand and identify with Philip's reservations. However, the solution is close at hand. There is a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. Jesus takes the food, gives thanks and then proceeds to give the food to the waiting crowd. Jesus is the giver of life. He satisfies their hunger and performs a miracle. Such are the vast quantities of food produced that twelve hamper are filled with the leftovers. The enthusiastic crowd acknowledge that something extraordinary has happened and begin to say amongst themselves that "this really is the prophet who is to come into the world". They want to make him their King but Jesus retreats to the hills by himself. ■

### REFLECT

After spending the last number of weeks reading Mark's Gospel, we have now moved onto John's Gospel for the next four weeks. The interesting thing about John's Gospel is that we never read about the Last Supper, where Jesus takes bread, breaks it, and says "this is my body given up for you". Such words are reserved for the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. However in today's Gospel, we are presented with a scene that resembles a celebration of the

Eucharist. Every Mass is an encounter with God, and here we see Jesus go up a mountain, the place of meeting between God and humanity. Jesus sat down with his students at his feet. Sitting down is the way of the teacher, and the crowd is invited into intimacy with him. The same activity happens during the Mass as we sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to the Word of God being read. Then follows the sacred meal that defines us as Christ's people. Jesus knew that the crowds were

### SAY

"Sweetest Jesus,  
Body and Blood most Holy,  
be the delight and pleasure of  
my soul,  
my strength and salvation in all  
temptations,  
my joy and peace in every trial,  
my light and guide in every  
word and deed,  
and my final protection in  
death. Amen"

St Thomas Aquinas (*The Aquinas Prayer Book*, Sofia Institute Press, 2000)

### DO

Place yourself into the scene of the Gospel where you are sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to his Word. Imagine the attentiveness of those present and the fulfilment when the bread is shared and the miracle is revealed.

### LEARN

"This is the miracle: rather than a multiplication it is a sharing, inspired by faith and prayer. Everyone eats and some is left over: it is the sign of Jesus, the Bread of God for humanity."

(Pope Francis, Angelus – St Peter's Square, June 2, 2013)



Pope Francis at the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican

hungry, but so is the whole human race. We are hungry for meaning, purpose, joy. We are all in that crowd waiting to be fed. Jesus takes the bread, he breaks it, he gives thanks and distributes the food. Bishop Robert Barron describes this as 'the Eucharistic Rhythm'. We read about this activity of Jesus in the other Gospels and we experience it during the Mass. This is John's account of the Eucharist through the loaves and fishes. ■



# PARISH OF DROMORE

Rev Feidhlimidh Magennis Tel: 07702665123  
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

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

Parish website: [www.stcolmans.org](http://www.stcolmans.org)  
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Parish email address: [office@stcolmans.org](mailto:office@stcolmans.org)  
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 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 & Thur :** Mass – 9.30am

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

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 29:** Patrick, Daniel & Agnes McEvoy, Kilkinamurry  
Bernard McEvoy, Coventry

**Sun 5:** Sam & Maisie Burns

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 29:** Mary Murphy

**Sun 5:** None

**Offertory Promise Collection** £759.90

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 5:** Ciara Cunningham

### Church Collectors – All Saints – August

Sean Burns & Aidan Rooney

### 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<sup>st</sup> and they will also be in the sanctuary in the Phoenix Park for the Papal Mass on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

### 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

### Parish Draw Winners Week 16

£100	Martin Doherty	277
£50	Peter Magee	202
£30	Kathleen McPolin	561
£20	John Murphy	135

### Ballela Community Group

The community group would like to thank everyone who attended the Treasure Hunt last Sunday, we raised £500 on the day and with additional donations during the week brings our total to **£615**.

Presentation of Cheque to NI Air Ambulance will be made in August.

### St Vincent de Paul annual Senior Citizens' Lunch

Will be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford at 2.30pm on Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Closing date is Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Aug.

### Northern Ireland Fire & rescue Service

#### Recruiting now in Dromore:

Want to help make Dromore a safer community? Fancy a worthwhile and rewarding part-time job? Are you available in Dromore on daytime, evenings and weekends and can make your way to the Fire Station within 5 mins of being alerted in order to respond to the incident? If Yes we would like to hear from you, vacancies will be advertised in local press and on our website from 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018. See [www.nifrs.org](http://www.nifrs.org) Closing date Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 at 3pm.

### Children's Liturgy gets Messy!

After a two week break Children's Liturgy will resume on Tuesday mornings: 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Aug in Ballela School, 10am -11.30am followed by tea and chat.

### Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited on Tues 31<sup>st</sup> July.

### Thanks from Bishop Boyce

Bishop Boyce thanks parishioners for their warm welcome last Sunday. He also appreciates the opportunity to talk with and listen to people of Ballela And Dromore