

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE (JOHN 6:24-35)



Stained glass window in St.Sulpice Church (Fougères, France)

You might remember that last week we read the famous scene of Jesus feeding the crowd with loaves and fishes. After this, Jesus escapes to the hills for fear of being made a King by the people.

His reappearance at the beginning of today's Gospel causes an immediate question from the crowd, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" They've been looking for him and waiting. But Jesus tells them that their main interest revolves around the signs and works he is performing. He states clearly that they must only work for food that endures to eternal life, not for food that cannot last. Only if they believe in the one who God has sent, will their hunger be truly satisfied.

Despite everything the crowd has witnessed so far as they followed him from shoreline to mountain top, they continue to ask him, "what sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you?" Perhaps they are looking for another miracle, another sign that this man is indeed the Son of God. But Jesus preaches to them again on the theme of bread from heaven. This bread that comes from God is the bread that gives life to the world. If they are hungry or thirsty, then the path to fulfilment and joy is through Jesus Christ. For Jesus states, "I am the bread of life." This phrase from Jesus will recur time and time again in chapter 6 of John's Gospel. The hunger of humanity will be satisfied through belief in Jesus and in the One who sent him. ■

SAY

Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself; our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Fulfil this longing through Jesus, the bread of life, so that we may witness to him who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family. By the power of your Spirit lead us to the heavenly table where we may feast on the vision of your glory forever and ever. Amen.

LEARN

"The Eucharist is the bread that gives strength... It is at once the most eloquent proof of His love and the most powerful means of fostering His love in us. He gives Himself every day so that our hearts as burning coals may set afire the hearts of the faithful."

(St Damien of Molokai)

REFLECT

A Greek man named Alexander Papaderou founded an Institute of Peace and Understanding on the island of Crete as a result of the many atrocities that took place there during the Second World War. He was convinced that people needed to let go of the hatred the war had unleashed. One day he was giving a lecture and at the end, someone asked him, "What is the meaning of life?" It's such a difficult question to answer but Alexander took a small mirror out of his wallet and said:

I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world – into the black places in the hearts of men and women – and change some things in some people. Perhaps others

may see and do likewise. This is what I'm about. This is the meaning of my life.

It's a powerful image and for most of us, to answer the question might take some time and reflection. What is the meaning of my life? It's the question on the lips of the crowd that greets Jesus in today's Gospel. These people are lost. They are looking for answers. How should they live their lives? Who should they follow? The answer is clear and unambiguous but the language is new. Jesus is the bread of life. He will nourish them and give them life but first, they must believe. Through Jesus they will find their meaning. Through him they will share his love and charity to their neighbours and family along the way. Our life's meaning becomes intertwined with the life of Christ. ■

DO

Reflect on the meaning of the Eucharist for you. When you receive the Body of Christ at Mass, what happens? Are you changed by the experience? Do you feel closer to God and God's family?



PARISH OF DROMORE

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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th Aug 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 5: Sam & Maisie Burns

Sun 12: Theresa & Andy McGivern

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 5: None

Sun 12: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1036.25

Readers - Dromore

Sun 12: Claire Downey

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. If any parishioners would like to volunteer as a steward please contact Newry Parish Office this week – 028 30262586.

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

Guided Tours of Newry Cathedral

Wed 8th Aug 7.00pm the tour will focus only on the images in the stained glass windows. Please meet at the main door. There is no charge for these tours.

Parish Draw Winners Week 17

£100	Marie Mackin	336
£50	Lisa McCusker	568
£30	Steven Haslem	428
£20	Aileen Gracey	501

Ballela GAC Lotto

Fri 13th July: 5 7 10 19

£10 winners: Rory McPolin, Mairead McMullan & Bernie Cunningham. Seller: John Doyle

Fri 20th July: 1 3 6 23

No £10 winners. Seller Kevin Close

Fri 27th July: 3 7 12 20

£10 winner: Sinead Burns. Seller: Rory McPolin

Fri 3rd Aug: 13 15 16 19

No £10 winners Seller: Kevin Close

Next week's jackpot £2000

Today 5th Aug, senior Hurlers play Leitrim at 7pm in Newcastle in the first round of the Championship.

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. Closing date is Sun 12th 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 23rd July 2018. See www.nifrs.org Closing date Fri 10th Aug 2018 at 3pm.

Children's Liturgy gets Messy!

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