

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



THE BREAD THAT I SHALL GIVE

(JOHN 6: 41-51)

The tone of today's Gospel is quite different to the great 'Bread of Life' sermon given by Jesus last week. The crowd today are questioning what Jesus has just said. How can he be the Son of God?

The people who have been following Jesus and listening attentively to his Word seem to have a detailed description of his family of origin. He is not the Son of David but the son of Joseph, the carpenter. They say, "We know his father and mother. How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Indeed Jesus is firm with them and tells them to stop complaining. The short sermon that follows tells people about how God draws people to Jesus and about the resurrection on the last day. It's interesting to note that Jesus seems to be under a little bit of pressure to prove his identity and his mission. He begins by quoting the prophets to provide the evidence required to convince the Jews that he indeed is the bread that has come down from heaven. He even reaches far back to the time of the Exodus when people fed from the manna in the desert. Those who ate of that bread died but those who eat the bread that comes from heaven will live forever.

The end of this sermon is probably going to shock the Jews a little. The word 'flesh' is used to describe the bread being offered by Jesus. "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." Whatever difficulty the Jews may have in understanding the identity of Jesus, they now have this tricky image to deal with. But this image of flesh has an even greater significance. For God so loved the world that the flesh of his own Son will be sacrificed on a cross. Greater clarity will emerge for this Jewish crowd over the passage of time. ■

REFLECT

There is no doubt that during the reading of John's Gospel over the coming weeks, we will be struck by some complex language and theological terms. It is perfectly natural in our prayer and reading of the Gospel to ask the question: what is Jesus trying to say here? What is the theological point? Sometimes it can take a couple of readings, and perhaps our time at Mass may not be sufficient to fully comprehend the magnitude of Jesus' testimony to his followers.

I'm going to suggest that the difficulty faced by the Jews and the followers of Jesus was not necessarily the newness of language and ideas, but this spoken reality that God's love is given to us freely and without condition. This is the gift that we receive as Christians. Our response to God's love is to believe in the One he has sent – Jesus Christ. He offers his flesh and blood during the Mass and we are invited to receive, to have faith and to believe. ■

SAY

God, my Father,
You have promised to remain
forever with those
who do what is just and right.
Help me to live in Your
presence.
Keep before me the wisdom
and love
You have made known in
Your Son.
Help me to be like Him in
word and deed. Amen.

LEARN

"Jesus was aware of the purpose of his mission: to announce the Kingdom of God and make it present in his own Person, in his actions, and in his words, so that the world would become reconciled with God and renewed."

(International Theological Commission, *The Consciousness of Christ Concerning Himself and His Mission*, 1985)

DO

Read this Gospel again and become more conscious of Christ handing himself over to us so that we might share in his life. This gift of Christ's presence has its foundation in

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 12th 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 & Fri- 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Wed : Mass - 10am

Tues & Thurs : Mass – 9.30am

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

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

All Saints: Tues 14th Vigil 7.00pm

St Colmans: Wed 15th 10.00am

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 12: Theresa & Andy McGivern
Sid & Maisie King

Sun 19: Brigid Teresa O'Hare

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 12: Geraldine Mulholland

Sun 19: Paddy & Bridget Johnson
James McGuigan

Offertory Promise Collection £1223.00

Readers - Dromore

Sun 19: Ciara Downey

Official Family Prayer for World Meeting Of Families 2018

God, our father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, One family, in the Spirit of your love, Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, Especially those for whom we now pray; Increase our faith, Strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen

Parish Draw Winners Week 18

£100	Rosary Maginess	009
£50	Sheila Cull	361
£30	Paul Delaney	341
£20	Joe Doyle	297

Ballela GAC Lotto

Fri 10th Aug: 1 5 17 24

£10 winner: Sean Burns

Seller : Gary McMullan

Next week's jackpot £2000

Ballela Community Group

We are having a presentation night for the NI Air Ambulance on Monday 3rd Sept at 7pm in Ballela School. There will be a representative from Air Ambulance to give a talk on the work that they do and if you haven't yet give a donation there is still time to do so. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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.

Children's Liturgy gets Messy! Children's Liturgy will resume on Tuesday morning's: 14th, 21st & 28th Aug in Ballela School, 10am -11.30am followed by tea and chat. This week's theme is Moses.

Sacrament of First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Pupils in Primary 4 & Primary 7, September 2018. Parents of children attending schools other than the parish or neighbouring parish schools who wish to have their children prepared for these sacraments are requested to inform Fr Magennis as soon as possible.

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