

## THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

## YOU HAVE THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE

(JOHN 6:60-69)

You will have noticed over the past number of weeks in the Gospel that Jesus is struggling to convince the crowds of his identity and the significance of his flesh and blood as food for life.

Today, however, it is not the crowds of Jews he is having a problem with, but his own disciples. They describe Jesus' language as intolerable and difficult to accept. They too have been listening to Jesus intently but his sermon on his body being the bread of life is too much for them to take. So Jesus must respond: if such language and imagery upsets you, how are you going to respond when I rise from the dead and return to my Father? This will be the ultimate test of their faith. As he responds to them in this scene, he is looking around and he already knows who will betray him. "There are some of you who do not believe," he says and following this, many of his followers turn their backs on him and walk away. Who can Jesus rely on now? Will the Twelve walk away too, or can they accept this new teaching being offered by Jesus? Simon Peter is the first to speak and it seems that he has full understanding and appreciation for Jesus' teaching. "You have the message of eternal life," he says. In this line, a statement of faith and intent is made. Peter wants to remain with Jesus right to the end. The Holy One of God walks with them and they know that through Jesus, they will find nourishment and life in his body and blood. As we arrive at the end of Chapter 6 of John's Gospel, Jesus' work of evangelisation has just begun. ■

## REFLECT

**W**e reflect today on the famous scene we encountered a number of weeks ago in Mark's Gospel, when Jesus turns his back on his own blood family to begin a life of mission with his new family of disciples. It was a crucial moment of faith from Jesus who understood that in order to move on with his mission, the Twelve would prove crucial for the future of the church and the message of redemption. Today's Gospel vindicates this decision of Jesus. Peter's statement is spoken on behalf

of the disciples. They don't turn their backs on Jesus like the other followers do. Instead, this family of believers stay together and begin a journey that will test them at every turn. They will scatter when Jesus is tried before the authorities, before returning again with the power of the Holy Spirit to be preachers and teachers in the early church. Simon Peter's question, "Lord, who shall we go to," exemplifies their commitment to Jesus. They find their home through his presence and love. ■

## SAY

**"He is generous even to exhaustion; and what is most wonderful is, that He gives Himself thus entirely, not once only, but every day, if we wish it. Every fresh Communion is a new gift which Jesus Christ makes of Himself."**

(St Ignatius Loyola)

## LEARN

Pope Francis responding to Peter's question, "Lord, who shall we go to?":

"We understand that faithfulness to God is a question about faithfulness to a person. All that we have in this world will not satisfy our hunger for the infinite. We need Jesus, we need to remain with Him, to nourish ourselves at His table, on His words of eternal life."

(Angelus address, August 23, 2015)

## DO

The next time you attend Mass, concentrate more fully on the Word of God (first reading, Psalm, second reading and Gospel). Allow the words to affect you and take one message home with you, something that will help you in your relationship with God.



# PARISH OF DROMORE

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## Twenty -First 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 & Thurs :** Mass – 9.30am

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

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 26:** Bernard, Mary, Frank  
& Barney McAnarney

**Sun 2:** Ned Rooney

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 26:** Sean Magee  
Ann Topley

**Sun 2:** None

**Offertory Promise Collection** £862.12

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 2:** Eibhlin Scott

### Church Collectors –All Saints – September

Seamus Lavery & Jonathan McKay

### Sacrament of First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Pupils in Primary 4 & Primary 7, Sept 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.

### Cathedral Tours

Guided tour of Newry Cathedral will take place on Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Aug at 7pm. Tour will last approx. 90 mins. Please meet at the main door. This is the last tour this year and there is no charge.

### Radio Maria

This is an Irish-run catholic Talk-Radio Station. Prayer, catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and testimonies, all commercial free, listen via TV Saorview Channel 210; Free App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND" streaming on [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie)

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018

### Parish Draw Winners Week 20

£500	Eilish McAleenan	293
£500	Tyler McClenaghan	219

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Aug: 3 16 17 18

£10 winners: Maureen McCusker & Carmel Burns

Seller: Rory McPolin

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Aug: 2 6 8 10

No £10 winners Seller: Gary McMullan

### Ballela Community Group - Pilates

Anyone interested in starting or returning to Pilates classes starting on Tues 11<sup>th</sup> of Sept at 7pm in Ballela School please contact Sarah Duff on 07928674733.

### Presentation to NI Air Ambulance

We are having a presentation night for the NI Air Ambulance on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Children's Liturgy gets Messy!

Last week of the Children's Liturgy will take place on Tuesday morning: 28<sup>th</sup> Aug in Ballela School, 10am - 11.30am followed by tea and chat. This week's theme is Naomi & Ruth

### 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.

### Phoenix Gas

Work is due to start on 27<sup>th</sup> of August with an estimated duration of six weeks from Fortfield along Maypole hill to the lower gate at the Parochial House. Please use Gallows street entrance.