

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



WASH YOUR HANDS!

(MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

The four Gospel versions show Jesus in conflict with the religious authorities of his day. In these passages, the evangelists present Jesus as being in the line of the prophets of Israel who were very suspicious of organised religion.

They did not deny its proper place in the life of the people, but saw the danger of outward observances becoming an end in themselves; people could forget the reason underlying such practices, which was to bring them closer to God by keeping the Lord in their mind when they performed their everyday tasks and duties.

Jesus appears in an unusual and uncharacteristic light when he is speaking to the religious leaders, in particular the Pharisees. He calls them "hypocrites", and this way of speaking has passed into English where we tend to regard the terms 'Pharisee' and 'hypocrite' as synonymous, the one equivalent to the other. However, these passages reflect more the later quarrels between the early Christian community and the Jewish synagogue over the person of Jesus. The Pharisees were the lay leaders of the synagogue and their aim was to interpret the Law in such a way that people could live it out in their daily existence. Generally speaking, these leaders were well respected, although some were regarded with the criticism and amusement that clerics of any denomination receive.

We might note Jesus' teaching that it is from within ourselves that sinful impulses emerge. Therefore we should not equate the first thought with sin; these initial thoughts are part of ourselves, but how we deal with them is another matter. If we indulge them then they will have serious consequences. Their existence is part of the mystery of evil. ■

SAY

Your words are spirit, Lord and they are life.

DO

When you wash the dishes, think of Jesus speaking to the Pharisees, and put yourself in the presence of the Lord: this is prayer.

LEARN

The Pharisees were the lay leaders of the synagogue; they later became the rabbis.

The scribes and priests lost their position of authority in the Jewish nation with the destruction of the Temple in 70CE.

The controversies between Jesus and the Pharisees reflect the later quarrels between the church and the synagogue over Jesus and his message.

It was thanks to the Pharisees and the institution of the synagogue that Judaism survived the loss of Jerusalem and the temple.



Jesus among the scribes: mosaic on the chorus of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ascension, Jerusalem, designed by H. Schaper and F. Pfannschmidt (1988-1991)

REFLECT

The Bible is the Word of God and speaks to every age. The details of the situation may vary, but the underlying principles and message remain valid. If Jesus and the prophets warn about the dangers of organised religion, then he and they are speaking to us just as much as to the people of their time. If they censure the religious

leaders of their day for "setting aside the commandment of God so as to cling to human traditions", then we should ask how this applies to the church of today. Are there customs which have apparently become more important than the preaching of the Good News? Has the church as an institution become an obstacle in some ways to people's perceiving God at work in our world? We may be tempted to dismiss these

passages in the Gospel as being a record of Jesus' attack on the religion of his day and to imagine that his words do not apply to us and the church of today. Such an attitude would be very smug, complacent – and mistaken. "The Word of the Lord stands for ever" according to the Psalm; we today are as much under the judgment of the Word as the leaders of the time of Jesus and the evangelists. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twenty - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 2nd Sept 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, Thurs & Fri- 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Tues : Mass – 9.30am

NO Mass on Thurs

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 2: Ned Rooney

Sun 9: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 2: None

Sun 9: None

Offertory Promise Collection £672.90

Readers - Dromore

Sun 9: Grainne Killiner

Recently Baptised

Riley Christopher Bowshell

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.

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

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 can benefit from a friendly visit or assistance/ Helpline number 07738838187

Parish Draw Winners Week 2

£100	Deirdre Downey	021
£50	Lelia Hamilton	140
£30	Nancy Gilpin	076
£20	Mícheál McAleenan	146

Ballela GAC Lotto

Fri 31st Aug: 4 18 19 21

No £10 winners. Seller: Sean Burns

Next week's Jackpot £2000

Ballela Community Group - Pilates

Anyone interested in starting or returning to Pilates classes starting on **Tues 11th 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 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. Committee meeting after presentation.

Phoenix Gas

Work is due to start 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.

Adoption

Family Care Adoption Services is presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For a free information pack please contact us at: Tel 02871368592 Mon – Fri 9-5pm or Email: anne.ohagan@familycaresociety.org

DROMORE DIOCESAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 17th September 2018: The Annual General Meeting of the above Society will be held in Newry Parish Centre at: 6:45 pm to be followed at 7:30 by a lecture by Fr Andrew McMahon on 'Nine Decades of Carmelite Witness: Glenvale Monastery 1929-2017. All welcome.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited on Tues 4th Sept.