



**WELL DONE!** MARK 7:31-37

*Christ healing Peter's mother-in-law: mosaic in Cora Church, Istanbul*

**Jesus is in Gentile territory, preaching and healing. This shows that his message is not confined to a Jewish territory or audience, but has a universal meaning.**

Jesus' works of healing illustrate God's Kingdom breaking into those situations where human life is imperilled or impaired. Mark the evangelist presents him as healing different kinds of people with different kinds of ailments, and here we have a very vivid presentation of the restoring to full health of someone who had no power of speech or hearing. Such healing is spoken of by the prophet Isaiah as a sign of the coming of the Lord. But the healing stories are symbolic of Jesus' ability to meet the deepest needs of the human person, and not just curing some physical sickness or condition out of compassion for the particular individual. They are what we might call 'catechetical aids' rather than episodes from a biography of Jesus.

We often read in Mark's account that Jesus forbids the person who is healed, or those who witness what happened, to talk about the event. It may well be that it is possible for people to come to the correct conclusion that Jesus is the Son of God or the Messiah for the wrong reasons. The miracles are not the definitive evidence of Jesus' true identity; that is given on the cross, when there can be no further misunderstanding. The true confession of Jesus as the Son of God is given by the Gentile centurion when Jesus is dead.

Mark often ends a section with the question, "Who is this...?" When this occurs we might take the question as addressed to ourselves and wonder how we might answer; we are as much involved in the story as the characters in the narrative. ■

**LEARN**

The term *Decapolis* means 'Ten Cities'.

The Decapolis region is located in southern Syria and is Gentile territory.

The theme running through Mark's Gospel of Jesus not allowing people to speak about his miracles or identity is known as the 'Messianic Secret'.

*Ephphatha* is a Hebrew or Aramaic term. Aramaic was the common language of the people of the region in Jesus' day.

**REFLECT**

**M**ark's presentation of Jesus' mission to the Gentiles reflects the experience of the evangelist's own community. It is also a model for the disciples who are called to take the Gospel message beyond the boundaries of their own comfort zone – in more than one sense. It is easy to settle for the comfortable and familiar (the maintenance model of the church) and to forget that the Gospel message is for everyone, including those of different outlook and culture (the mission model).

There is a feeling in certain quarters that if the church were to find a better way of communicating its message, then the problem would be solved. While there is some truth in that, very often people are not so much attracted by abstract reasoning so much as by the faith of individual Christians whom they encounter in the course of their daily life and business. Such people have something about them which make others wonder and want what they have. But this quality is not something which can be manufactured; it is something within the person and comes from a deep conviction about who Jesus is and what Jesus means to them. Very often it is not something which the individual can put into words, but it is still real and effective. That is why the Gospel urges us to keep asking the question of ourselves: "Who is this...?" ■

**SAY**

**It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind.**

**DO**

Prepare your answer to someone who asks you, "Why are you a Christian?" or "Why do you go to church?" Be ready to give it.



*Umm Qais in the ancient city of Decapolis, present-day northern Jordan. It is located in the extreme north-west of the country, where the borders of Jordan, Israel and Syria meet.*

# 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

## Twenty - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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, Tues, Wed, & Fri-** 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

**Thurs :** Mass – 9.30am

**NO Mass on Tues**

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

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 9:** None

**Sun16:** None

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 9:** Vincent Gracey

**Sun 16:** Denis Mallon

James, Margaret & Francie McDonald

**Offertory Promise Collection** £791.52

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 16:** Siobhan Mc Ardle

### 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

### Overseas Volunteers Required!

Volunteer Carpenters, Builders, Media Specialists, Early Childhood Practitioners, Occupational Therapists, Primary/Secondary Teachers, Accountants, Social Workers, Farmers...required for placements on Missions in Africa, SE Asia and the Caribbean. No previous overseas experience required, no upper age limit! Volunteer training programme begins 22nd September in Dublin - open to all! Contact Viatores Christi +353-1-8689986 or email [apply@viatoreschristi.com](mailto:apply@viatoreschristi.com) for more info.

### Whist

Will take place in Dromore Hall on Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8.30pm. Ladies to provide pastry: Anne Mallon & Deirdre Cunningham.

### Parish Draw Winners Week 22

£100	Andrew & Louise Stewart	038
£50	Clifford Devlin	306
£30	Linda Hudson	092
£20	Kevin Clarke	447

### Ballela GAC Lotto

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Sept: 3 6 13 14

No £10 winners. Seller: Rory McPolin

Next week's Jackpot £2000

### "Night at the Race's"

Will take place on Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Oct at 8pm in Anglers Rest. Admission £10 which includes food.

**Good Luck** to Ballela Camogie player Catherine O'Hare who is a member of the Down Ladies Camogie team who will take on Cork in the All-Ireland Final today in Croke Park. We wish her all the best.

### 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

On Monday night We were proud to present Kerry Anderson fund raiser for the NI Air Ambulance with a cheque for **£850**. We would like to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause, those who supported our Treasure Hunt or gave money during the last month and especially to those turned up on the night for the talk and presentation, and a special thank you to Sinead Lennon for the beautiful pavalova which everyone enjoyed.

### 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](mailto: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 McMahan on 'Nine Decades of Carmelite Witness: Glenvale Monastery 1929-2017. All welcome.