



WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

MARK 8:27-35

One of the uncomfortable features of Mark's account is that no one understands properly who Jesus really is until the declaration of the centurion at the cross.

No one has any privileged insight into Jesus' identity, and the early part of the Gospel shows misunderstanding on the part of different groups of people. So when Peter answers Jesus' question to the disciples as to whom they believe him to be with the words "You are the Christ", Jesus does not accept it in the way he does in Matthew's version of the story.

Peter has not received a special revelation from God, so his reasoning that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, must come from his observing Jesus as teacher and healer, which is not sufficient to show a proper understanding of Jesus as the Son of God: this comes from the cross. Also, the term *Messiah* (or 'the Christ') had political and nationalistic overtones which could lead to people having false expectations about Jesus and his mission. The first prediction of the Passion comes as a corrective to this view.

The story of Jesus being tested by Satan followed immediately on Jesus' being baptised and revealed as the 'Son of God'. How does Jesus understand being the Son of God? The correct answer for Mark lies in the cross. But Peter does not understand this and tries to deflect Jesus from the path laid out for him. Jesus rebukes him, calling him Satan. Thus the same test comes, but this time through a human being, one who is close to Jesus and acting out of the best of motives. Jesus is on a journey during which his true identity will be revealed. His followers are on the same journey and Jesus tells them that anyone who would be a disciple must also take up their own cross and follow. Like master, like disciple. ■

LEARN

There is no account of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel according to Mark has been described as "a Passion narrative with a long introduction".

The theology of the cross dominates Mark's account of the life and ministry of Jesus.

Peter is the spokesperson for the disciples in the Gospel tradition.

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross. Remember that the cross is the sign of the extent of God's love for you and the measure of Jesus' willingness to carry out his mission.



REFLECT

Mark's Gospel narrative opens with Jesus as an adult. There is no account of his birth which reveals to human beings who Jesus truly is. The idea that Jesus' family members could therefore misunderstand who he really is, is difficult for many of us to grasp since we are so familiar with the narratives of the birth of Jesus from Luke and Matthew, which centre on the characters of Mary and Joseph. But we have to read each Gospel story on its own terms and struggle with the uncomfortable questions which arise, without bringing in details from elsewhere to smooth over the difficulties.

Many of us who have been brought up in the Christian faith cannot understand the bafflement which those who have no Christian background feel when faced with the claim that Jesus is the Son of God. Some such Christians actually envy those who have come to believe through a process of struggle and questioning rather than having been taught and accepted the faith from an early age. Those who come later have had to answer for themselves the question Jesus puts to Peter: "Who do you say I am?" But we are all being asked that question; we have to answer for ourselves, and not rely on what we were told a long time ago. ■

SAY

Jesus is the Christ.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twenty - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 16th 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, & Fri- 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Tues & Thurs : Mass – 9.30am

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun16: None

Sun 23: Patrick & Margaret McAleenan
Mona Clarke
Bridget O'Rourke

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 16: Denis Mallon
James, Margaret & Francie McDonald
Kathleen Burns

Sun 23: Rosalind Rooney
Vincent Mallon

Offertory Promise Collection £1031.96

Readers - Dromore

Sun 23: Brendan McCann

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

Whist

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

Whist also on Sun 23rd Sept in Dromore Hall at 8.30pm.

Proposed change in mass times

Fr Maginness purposes a change in the week day schedule to provide an evening mass in Ballela in addition to the morning masses in Dromore, the proposal pattern is Morning mass - **9.30am** in Dromore on **Tuesday & Friday** and Evening mass – **7.00pm** in Ballela on **Thursday**. This pattern will commence the week beginning Sun 23rd Sept.

Parish Draw Winners Week 23

£100	Sarah McAleenan	020
£50	Michelle McGrath	598
£30	Aisling McGreevy	116
£20	Kevin Mackin	124

Ballela GAC Lotto

Fri 7th Sept: 3 7 8 1

£10 winners Niall Burns Seller: Sean Burns
Next week's Jackpot £2000

"Night at the Race's"

Will take place on Fri 5th Oct at 8pm in Anglers Rest. To sponsor a race its £50, to sponsor a horse it £10 Admission £10 on the night which includes food.

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.

Culture Night Belfast Fri 21st Sept 7.00pm

A staged reading of "*Turbulent Priest*", a new play from Pdraig Coyle will be performed at St Patricks Church Hall, 199 Donegall St, Belfast. It is based around the life of County Down Priest Fr Patrick Kelly, former priest of Ballela who was a prominent member of the French resistance during World War II, Entrance: Free.

2018: Guided Tours of Newry Cathedral (EXTRA TOUR)

Due to the interest shown in the recent tour of the beautiful stained-glass windows in the Cathedral, an additional tour will take place on Wednesday 19th September at 2.00pm. This timing will enable the tour to optimize the daylight available in the afternoon. The 60 images in the stained-glass illustrate stories from the Old and New Testaments. Furthermore, there are also very interesting illustrations of some Irish Saints and some Saints of the Universal Church. Why not come along to this tour and view the 19th Century German and early 20th Century English stained-glass.

There is no charge for the tour.