

THE END IS NIGH?

(MARK 13:24-32)



Our Gospel reading today belongs to the type of writing known as 'apocalyptic'. The purpose of such writing is to encourage the faithful to stand firm in the face of persecution.

It is cast in highly symbolic terms which often baffle the reader who takes the Bible literally. One of the key events in this presentation is that of judgment, when those who have remained steadfast will be vindicated and their persecutors will receive their well-deserved punishment. As he comes to the end of his earthly mission, Jesus describes the cosmic events which will accompany the return of the Son of Man when he will gather his people to himself.

We can see from this passage and other parts of the New Testament that some people expected Jesus to return in the immediate future and that these expectations had to be tempered. Jesus says on the one hand that these things will take place in the lifetime of the disciples to whom he is speaking, but then adds that the only person who actually knows is the Father. Not even the Son knows the timing to which the divine plan is running. ■

SAY

Your Kingdom come,
on earth as in heaven.

LEARN

Apocalyptic writing, which appears to deal with the end of the world, is intended to encourage people under persecution to stand firm: God will vindicate them in God's own good time.

The main examples of apocalyptic writing are the books of Daniel and Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse.

The title 'Son of Man' (which means 'human being') often occurs in passages concerned with the Last Judgment.

Chapter 13 of the Gospel according to Mark is often called the 'Little Apocalypse', while the book of Revelation is known as the 'Great Apocalypse'.

DO

Look at the news reports; remember that wars, earthquakes and flooding are mentioned in apocalyptic passages as announcing the end of the world. But this has not happened yet and we do not know when it will. It is our responsibility to make the world a better place here and now. Do what you can.

REFLECT

There are two misunderstandings which arise from reading apocalyptic writing literally. The more common one is to read contemporary events in the light of biblical symbolism and to see them as heralding the end of the world.

The second, less common but more dangerous notion is that human beings can create conditions which will bring about the Second Coming. This is line with the testing of Jesus when the devil tells him that if he jumps off the pinnacle of the temple, God will be forced to intervene if Jesus really is the Son of God who has a mission from the Father. Recently, certain fundamentalist Christians have pressed for Jerusalem to be recognised as the capital of Israel: not for political reasons, but because they believe that if this happens, it will help to bring about the Second Coming. They interpret the possible outcome of such a decision, which would most probably cause massive upheaval in the region, as indicating that this would be imminent and that God's plan would be on the brink of being fulfilled. Atomic war would only correspond to some of the more dramatic aspects of apocalyptic writing and would certainly bring about the end of the world as we know it.

A fundamentalist and literal reading of certain passages of the bible can lead to a completely distorted understanding of the Word of God. In this case, it assumes that contemporary events herald the return of Jesus in glory and the end of the world. It ignores the fact that such events have occurred throughout history and there has been no such result. There is good reason for Christians to be concerned about current events, just as anyone who cares about their world would be worried. But we do not need to attribute to God the responsibility for the dangerous state of the world; the Word of God assures us that human beings are perfectly capable of creating these conditions for themselves. ■



Internally displaced people walk with their belongings in Afrin, Syria.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Thirty - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 18th November 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- 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word
with Eucharist

Tues & Fri : Mass – 9.30am

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

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thursday – 7.00pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 18: None

Thurs 22: William, Susan & Willie McAleenan

Sun 25 : Mary McGrath

Deceased members of the Doran Family

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 18: Matthew, Margaret & Arthur Brown

Sun 25: Mary Beins (Months Mind)

Mairead Keery

John & Kathleen Doherty

Offertory Promise Collection £952.81

Readers - Dromore

Sun 25: Ciara Cunningham

Do This In Memory

“Week 3” will take place in both churches on Sun
25th November.

Tea & Chat

Will take place in St Colmans hall after 11am
mass on Sun 25th Nov. everyone welcome.

Wind, Rain, Snow and Moon

The launch of a new book of poetry by Fr Michael
Maginn will take place in Ashburn Hotel, Lurgan
on Tues 4th Dec at 7pm entertainment by
Cantabile & Maginn school of Irish dancing,
refreshments served.

Friends of St Colmans P.T.A

Are holding a family Bingo night on Thursday 22nd
Nov at 7pm in St Colmans Hall. All welcome.

Parish Draw Winners Week 32

£100	Lois Doyle	345
£50	Desmond McAnarney	583
£30	Deirdre Rice	005
£20	Paula Burns	048

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Fri 16th Nov: 7 11 16 20

No £10 winners. Seller Sean Burn. Jackpot £2000
Club AGM 14th Dec at 7.45pm in Ballela school.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Ballela Community Group are having their Christmas
Coffee morning in Ballela School on **Sun 9th Dec** After
9.45am mass in Ballela until 12 noon. There will be
delicious homemade scones, buns and treats for
everyone and there will be a chance for the kids to
visit Santa in his Grotto. There will also be children's
activities and Holly Wreaths for sale. Admission is
£2.50 per person.

Special Mass for the Deceased since:

31-10-2017 A Mass to commemorate and pray for
the deceased of our parish since Nov 2017 will be
held in both churches on **Sun 18th Nov** at normal
mass time. The following is a list from our parish
records of those who have died. Please let us know if
there is anyone from our parish who has died and is
not on the list: John McCormac, Mary Elizabeth
Keenan, Mary Caulfield, Brendan Fox, John
Donaldson, Margaret Gladys Walsh, Laurence
McDonald, Esme Gilmore, Johnny Doyle, Mary Beins
& Lily Lennon. A candle will be given to a family
member when they enter church and during mass the
candle will be brought up to the alter, this candle can
be placed on the grave after mass.

Whist will be held in St Colmans hall Dromore on
Sun 18th Nov at 8.30pm. Ladies to supply pastry:
Siobhan McArdle & Margaret Downey.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in the
Parish Centre, Scarva Rd, Banbridge on Sun 25th Nov
at 3pm. All members are invited to attend.

Hospice Collection

Will be taken up in both Churches on **Sun 25th Nov.**