

# Sunday Message

## THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



## STAND UP STRAIGHT!

(LUKE 21:25-28.34-36)

*Intricately carved frieze inside Notre Dame Cathedral depicting Jesus' appearance to the disciples in Galilee*

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new cycle of readings from the Gospel, this time from the account presented to us by Luke.

The text for today concerns the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time, an event heralded by fearful signs which engulf the natural world. The effect on the human world will be one of confusion and panic. When this will happen is unknown, so how should the disciples of Jesus live in the meantime?

We find the figure of the coming of the Son of Man in glory in the Book of Daniel, which speaks about the final victory of God over the forces which oppose God's rule, God's vision of what human life should be. In the Gospel story, these forces are identified with Satan, and with anything which endangers or adversely affects human life: for example, Luke earlier has described the plight of a crippled woman, "whom Satan has bound" for 18 years and is unable "to stand up straight". Jesus delivers her from this condition, and in this way illustrates the universal deliverance from evil which the Son of Man will bring. The disciples must hold themselves ready to meet the Lord whenever this event takes place. Jesus has warned them about the dangers facing the likes of the complacent house manager who imagines that he or she has plenty of time to indulge in self-centred abuses of their position. There is also the risk that disciples may allow their awareness of the Word of God to be drowned out by the daily concerns of life. Such an attitude will mean that the arrival of the Son of Man will cause panic, guilt and shame.

But this need not be so. Jesus tells the disciples to be alert, constantly praying, and then they will be ready to greet him joyfully. Like the woman whom Jesus has liberated from her suffering, they should stand up straight, knowing that their deliverance from all the evil which threatens them is imminent. Then his coming will be a source of joy, good news indeed. ■

### SAY

To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.

### DO

Use the frantic advertising for Christmas as a reminder of what is really important to you as a Christian person. Imagine it all as froth on the surface and find a quiet place in your heart to reflect on the place which Jesus occupies in your life today.

### REFLECT

Advent is the period of the four weeks leading up to the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, or the Birth, of Christ. During this time we are invited to reflect not simply on the historical event which took place in Bethlehem, but also, and more importantly, on what that event should mean to us personally today. How would I feel if I realised that Jesus was arriving later today? Would this be good news?

Each time we pray "Thy Kingdom come", we are in fact praying that God's rule (or God's will) should be established in our world: so, we ought to live our lives believing that this is in fact a reality. We might also consider our daily cares and concerns in this light, so that when we celebrate Christmas, we will be welcoming Christ into our lives today as a real and living presence, in a spirit of deep joy. ■

### LEARN

The word 'Advent' means 'coming' or 'approach'.

The biblical posture for speaking to God in prayer is standing, not kneeling.

The term 'Son of Man' is taken from the Book of Daniel.

The Book of Daniel is apocalyptic writing, which describes events at the end of time.



# PARISH OF DROMORE

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## First Sunday of Advent

### 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

### Weekday Mass times: All Saints

**Thursday** – 7.00pm

### Feast of The Immaculate Conception

#### Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

Mass in St Colmans - 10 am

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 2:** John McCormac

**Sun 9:** Willie McAleenan, Kilmacrew

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 2:** None

**Sun 9:** James Murray  
Mary, Thomas & Peggy McCann

**Offertory Promise Collection** £1398.64

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 9:** Ciara Downey

### Collectors - All Saints - December

Martin McAnarney & Peter Doyle

### Recently Deceased

Fr Patrick Gerald Conway, Old Warrenpoint Rd,  
Newry, Former Parish Priest of Dromore.

Sean Burns, formerly of Gallows St, Dromore,  
died peacefully Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Nov in Australia.

### Christmas Youth Retreat

Youth 2000 invites all young adults between ages  
of 16-35 to a Catholic weekend retreat taking  
place from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at Newbridge college Co  
Kildare. There will be excellent speakers, inspiring  
talks and workshops, prayer, fantastic live music,  
group activities, youth Masses, Adoration, a  
healing service, games, lots of time to chill out  
and meet new people. All meals are provided for  
and accommodation is on site, just bring a  
donation and a sleeping bag, free buses near you.  
To book see : [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

## Sunday 2<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Parish Draw Winners Week 34

£100	Georgina Devlin	289
£50	Michael Haslem	425
£30	Margaret Boyle	226
£20	Ann McGrath	181

### Ballela G.A.C

Club AGM 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.45pm in Ballela school.

### Christmas Coffee Morning

Ballela Community Group are having their Christmas  
Coffee morning in Ballela School on **Sun 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages April – Oct 2019

7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from  
Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing. Book  
any flight-any time and we provide guaranteed  
airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and  
book the dates that suit you, Tel. 014434510 or email  
reservations@med-irishcentre.com.  
website: [www.med-irishcentre.com](http://www.med-irishcentre.com)

### S.V.P The Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who took a tag from the giving  
tree. Please return all gifts in a bag with the tag  
attached no later than Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Leave  
in the box at the back of St Colmans Church.

**St Vincent de Paul Collection** will take place on  
Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please support our Christmas appeal.

### Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited as follows  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Dec – Dromore  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Dec – Ballela

### Our Lady's Open Night

Will take place on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.17pm – 10.00pm  
Parents and P7 girls will be very welcome to look  
around the school and talk to teachers and pupils.

**Hospice Collection** £1161.42, Thank you for your  
generosity.