



FIX THAT ROAD! (LUKE 3:1-6)

Roman road in Jeresh

John the Baptist is an important figure in the Gospel tradition. In Luke's version of the story of their conception and birth, we find he is presented in parallel to Jesus, but always at a lower level: for instance, John is conceived, against all the odds, like significant figures in the Hebrew Bible such as Isaac, Jacob and Samuel, in the natural way: Jesus' conception, however, does not involve a human father.

Luke sets John and his ministry in the wider setting of human history by mentioning the chief political and religious leaders of the time: the emperor, the governor of the area and the chief priests of the people. In this way, Luke tells us that the birth of Jesus has a meaning for the world beyond the geographical and religious world of the land of Israel. The Gospel message is for everyone who will accept it.

John the Baptist is in some ways the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the New Testament saints. He is an uncomfortable figure, like all of the prophets, but his preaching is intended to bring people to their senses, to help them realise that they have lost their way in life and to do something about it. The end result should be that his hearers decide to change their attitude and behaviour and to express this resolution publicly by being baptised. In this way, they are reconciled to God: this surely is good news.

John's ministry is earlier and similar to that of Jesus. It is also preparing the way for the arrival of the Saviour. His word may be critical and uncomfortable, but its aim is positive. ■

LEARN

The New Testament term for 'conversion' is *metanoia*.

Metanoia has the sense of changing the way we think.

Conversion involves a change of attitude which manifests itself in our behaviour.

The result and purpose of conversion is to be reconciled to God.

REFLECT

Many ancient roads were a marvel of engineering. They were straight and level: the engineers overcame every obstacle in their way, whether they were slopes going up or down, streams, trees and the like. Nothing was allowed to interfere with the swift and smooth progress of troops or trade. They were so well constructed that many still remain, thousands of years later.

This is the vision of Second Isaiah, who was writing 500 years or so earlier than the birth of Christ, when the Roman Empire was at the high point of its power. The prophet calls for the construction of such a road so that all people will see the salvation of God. We might recall that in the story of Jesus' being presented in the Temple, Simeon had spoken of "a light of revelation for the Gentiles", and here we are told that "all people will see the salvation of God". Luke emphasises that God's message is for all who will accept God's word declared through the prophet, but this conversion, or 'turn-around', is not something purely intellectual or interior: it must show itself in the way the person lives and treats others. Advent is the time for us to "prepare a way for the Lord" into our hearts, minds and lives. ■

SAY

Prepare a way for the Lord!

DO

As you walk along the street, look at the road. What condition is it in? How might the state of the road reflect the state of your life in relation to God? Are there potholes? Are major repairs being carried out? Or is the road well maintained and an asset to the local and wider community?



PARISH OF DROMORE

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Second 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

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

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thursday – 7.00pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 9: Willie McAleenan, Kilmacrew

Sun 16: Patrick & Sarah Burns

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 9: James Murray

Mary, Thomas & Peggy McCann

Tues 11: Thomas & Elizabeth Mulligan

Sun 16: Frank McAnearney

Marilyn Keenan

Offertory Promise Collection £905.70

Readers - Dromore

Sun 16: Aileen Gracey

Do This In Memory

“Week 4” will take place on Sun 16th Dec in both churches.

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 9th December. Leave in the box at the back of St Colmans Church.

St Vincent de Paul Collection will take place on Sun 9th Dec. Please support our Christmas appeal.

Tea & Chat

Will take place in St Colmans hall on Sun 16th Dec after 11am mass. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 9th December 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 3

£100	Seamus Cunningham (Dromore)	004
£50	John Rooney	002
£30	Joseph Downey	158
£20	Frances Hamilton	041

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Fri 30th Nov: 15 17 18 23

No £10 winners, Seller Gary McMullan

Fri 6th Dec: 6 9 11 17

£10 winners: Martin Burns, Claire Downey, Eimear Downey. Seller: Rory McPolin
AGM Cancelled until further notice.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Ballela Community Group are having their Christmas Coffee morning in Ballela School today, **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.

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages April – Oct 2019

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website: www.med-irishcentre.com

Whist

Whist will take place on Sun 16th Dec in St Colmans Hall, Dromore at 8.30pm. Ladies to supply pastry: Helen Downey and Bronagh Brady.

St Mary's P.S. Dechomet

Open night Mon 10th Dec 6.30-8pm. Carol service on Tues 18th Dec 10am and 7pm.