

# Sunday Message

## THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1

Today's episode from the Gospel is usually called 'The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple', and brings to an end the Infancy Narrative of Luke.

It is the only story we have which concerns the childhood of Jesus. It is a very human story, the worst nightmare of every parent of a child who has begun to use their freedom to move about independently. In the case of this boy it is pointing towards his own future which his parents only discern dimly.

It might be better if we read this incident in the light of Luke's artistic skill as a writer. The first two chapters set out the main themes which the evangelist will later develop. One of these motifs is that even the most devout and faithful person can misunderstand who Jesus is and what he means.

We also find details in this scene which anticipate the resurrection: for example three days; Luke's connecting being lost with being dead, and being found with coming back to life; Jesus question, "Why are you looking for me?" corresponds to the angel's question to the women about looking for the living among the dead. Perhaps the most poignant feature here is that just at the moment when his distraught parents (as Luke refers to them) find Jesus, he has entered the stage which every adolescent has to undergo, that of separating from them in order to establish his own identity and to fulfil his calling in life. That is why he is "busy with my Father's affairs" (rather than being "in my Father's house"). Once more, the fact of Jesus being a true human being comes to the fore: he has to grow up like all of us (hopefully) in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and other people. ■

### LEARN

Passover was one of the three pilgrimage feasts when faithful Jews were expected to travel to Jerusalem if possible for the feast.

Pilgrims would travel in groups (caravans) for safety and companionship.

The presentation of Jesus as a boy of twelve possibly indicates his readiness to accept adult religious responsibilities.

### SAY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph!



### REFLECT

Any parent will be able to identify with the powerful emotions which Luke ascribes to Mary and Joseph in this narrative. We have the loss of a child and the desperate search for him over three days. Then there is the relief at finding him safe and sound; this is followed by bewilderment, first of all at his apparent indifference to the anxiety he has caused them and then the perplexing reference to "my Father's affairs". Not even the fact that he appears to be instructing the recognised teachers of the Law seems to help them understand what is going on. The attitude, characteristic of many adolescents – What are you getting so excited about? – will no doubt be all too familiar to parents of teenagers.

It is easy, and perhaps dangerous, to idealise the Holy Family by imagining a completely peaceful and idyllic life in Nazareth. For all we know it may well have been. But the further we remove Mary and Joseph from our own human experience, the less we can identify with them; and the doctrine of the Incarnation, that Jesus is truly divine and truly human, becomes less and less meaningful. ■

### DO

Consider a child who is twelve years old. How could he or she help you to understand better our belief in Jesus as a true human being?



# PARISH OF DROMORE

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## Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December 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

**Mass - Tues & Fri** : 9.30am

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

### Weekday Mass times: All Saints

**Thursday** – 7.00pm

### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 30:** None

**Sun 6:** James McCusker, Kilkinamurruy

### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 30:** None

**Sun 6:** Frances Hamilton  
Hugh McGrath

### Offertory Promise Collection £1139.80

### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 6:** Brendan McCann

### Collectors: Ballela – January

Patricia McCormac & Ryan Doyle

## Thank You

A grateful Thank You to all who helped throughout the year, counters, collectors, Ministers Eucharist/Word, Sacristans, Church floral decorators and cleaners, organists & choir. Those who assist in the background with secretarial work, Alter servers & supervisors, those who serve on parish groups, committees & organizations and those who help with directing the various parish programmes.

### Sick visits

The sick of the parish will be visited next week. Details in next week's bulletin.

### Parish Draw Winners Week 38

£100	Anne Lennon	411
£50	Rita Keenan	151
£30	Kathleen McGrath	178
£20	Danny McCrory	190

### Fitsteps Exerise Class

Starting on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 8-9pm in St Colmans Hall Dromore an exercise class based on Ballroom & Latin dancing suitable for all ages & fitness levels, no partner or previous dance experience required. Cost £5 per class contact Kelly 07864294422 and on Facebook Fitsteps: Kelly McAleese.

### 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](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com). website: [www.med-irishcentre.com](http://www.med-irishcentre.com)

### The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar

#### School Open Day

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Jan from 10am – 12 noon. Followed by headmaster's address.

#### St Colman's College Newry

Open Day on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 from 10am -1pm principal Cormac McKinney will address guests at 11am and 12 noon. Prospective post 16 students and their parents/guardians are also very welcome to attend.

#### Weight Watchers Class

Will resume on Tues 8<sup>th</sup> January from 10am -11am in St Colman's hall Dromore. Tea/coffee available and everyone welcome.