



Stained glass window in the Cathedral of Rouen, France, depicting Jesus calling Simon Peter to become a "fisher of men"

Today we meet Simon Peter for the first time in the narrative. Jesus has already healed Simon's mother-in-law, but this is the earliest personal encounter of the two which Luke records.

Instead of the abrupt command in the versions of Mark and Matthew, Luke's version sets the recruiting of the first three disciples in the context of an astonishing catch of fish after a night of futile human effort. The evangelist emphasises Peter's faith in the word of Jesus the prophet. Peter initially objects to Jesus' command, but then obeys, echoing the idea that "nothing is impossible to God". Peter's perception of Jesus changes as a result of his experience; at the beginning of the story, he refers to Jesus as "Master" and at the end as "Lord".

Peter's reaction when he discovers himself in the presence, not of a simple teacher who taught the crowds from a boat, but of a divine figure, is to worship Jesus. He then describes himself as "a sinful man"; this does not mean that he is morally wicked, but rather that he is accepting his human condition when confronted by the Holy One, just as Isaiah did during his vision of the Almighty in the Temple. It is this realistic view of himself that allows Peter to accept Jesus and the salvation he offers. The human reaction to the divine presence is often described in terms of fear or awe: Luke describes it more in terms of being fascinated, being drawn, rather like Moses and the burning bush. The person is attracted to Jesus not just by his word but by his whole person. Although Peter's original request is for Jesus to withdraw his presence, Peter ends up following him. Peter here represents the converted sinner who becomes a disciple. He will now share in the mission of Jesus and will catch human beings instead of fish. He will snare them alive in the net of the Gospel. ■

REFLECT

Follow me, follow me, leave your home and family... – so goes the tuneful and popular hymn, often sung with great gusto by people who have no intention of taking the words seriously. Or perhaps it would be better to say that most people have no possibility of putting the call literally into practice. Maybe we need to consider what the term 'following' means to us. In the Gospel, when we come across the word 'follow', we might substitute the phrase 'being a disciple'. So when Jesus says, "Follow me!" he is simply saying "Be my disciple!" This is an invitation, not a command; we will encounter individuals in the Gospel narrative who cannot accept Jesus' invitation. His invitation is to all of us, whoever we may be. No state of life is higher than another in the Christian community. As long as being a committed disciple of Jesus is the most important aspect of our life, then we will see our other responsibilities in their proper light. ■

LEARN

The way in which people speak to Jesus reveals their understanding of who he is.

Titles such as 'Teacher' or 'Master' indicate that the person understands Jesus simply as a human being.

The terms 'Lord' or 'Christ' really refer to the risen and glorified Jesus.

The verb 'to follow' is a technical term for 'to become' (or 'to be') a disciple of Jesus.

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Your baptism was the outward sign of your accepting the invitation to become a disciple of Jesus. The way you live out your baptismal calling is just as valid and significant as any other.



PARISH OF DROMORE

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Fifth Sunday in ordinary Time

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 10: Kathleen McGregor (Months Mind)
Henry McGrath

Sun17: John McAnarney

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 10: Breen Morgan
Margaret Walsh

Sun 17: Patrick Murphy
Geraldine O'Loughlin

Offertory Promise Collection £1191.54

Readers - Dromore

Sun 17: Eibhlin Scott

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes Committee

Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage 21st – 26th May 2019, Pilgrim fare £660. If you wish to travel as a pilgrim please contact any member of the committee. If anyone is wishing to travel as sick please forward your name to any committee member.

Whist

Will take place on Sun 17th Feb at 8.30pm in Dromore Hall. Ladies in charge of pastry: Patricia Mackin, Marie Stewart & Eileen Gribben

Women's World Day Of Prayer

Will take place on Fri 1st march in The Church Of Ireland Cathedral, Dromore at 8pm. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 10th February 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 44

£100	James McPolin	558
£50	Gerard Mulgrew	011
£30	Martin Downey	014
£20	Peter Magee	202

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Fri 1st Feb: 1 6 15 19

No £10 winners. Seller Anglers Rest

Fri 8th Feb : 2 3 10 14

No £10 winners. Seller: Michael Doyle
Jackpot £2000.

Ballela Community Group

AGM will be held on Mon 11th February at 7.30pm in Ballela School Everyone welcome.

Special Remembrance mass

You are warmly invited to a Special Remembrance Service to give thanks for and remember Southern Trust patients and staff who have died.

It takes place on Tues 19th Feb at 7.30pm in Seagoe Parish Centre, 46 Seagoe Rd, Portadown, Craigavon, BT63 5HW. As a tribute to patients and staff the service will include a time of reflection and for this you may wish to bring a flower. All Welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

The Annual Mass of intercession for our priests, religious and members of the Society will be celebrated in

**St Patrick's Church, Dromore Street,
Banbridge on Friday 22nd February 2019 at
7.30pm.**

Along with local parishioners, priests, religious and members of St. Joseph's Young Priests Society throughout the Diocese are invited to attend.

Prayer For Today

Lord, give me the grace to put love where there is hate, forgiveness where there is resentment, and healing where there are wounds and hurt.