

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

(LUKE 6:17, 20-26)

Jesus has been praying on the mountain, after which he selects his twelve close disciples.

Then, like Moses the prophet, he comes down and teaches the people, who have come from far and wide, even from Gentile territory, to hear him. Luke's version of this scene is sometimes called The Sermon on the Plain, as his setting and account are different to that of Matthew. Luke has four Beatitudes and four Woes. His description of those who are poor is not spiritualised, but Jesus speaks to those whose actual material condition puts them at a disadvantage in society. The term "poor" includes all those who are marginalised in any way, who are pushed to the edge of civil and religious society. When Jesus tells them that "Yours is the kingdom of heaven", he is saying that God accepts them as members of the restored people, not because they are especially pious or devout, but simply because they are poor. This is Jesus putting into practice the mission statement from Isaiah about "bringing good news to the poor".

But in Luke's thought, salvation means the reversing of the social order. It is not just a matter of attending to the needs of poor people, but of overturning those who are secure and powerful and so responsible in some ways for others being in need or neglected. This he has outlined in the Song of Mary, the *Magnificat*. He tells us that God is at work in the ministry of the prophet, challenging people's values and preconceptions, not for the sake simply of criticising, but of transforming society, so that we respect people first and foremost as human beings, not because of their wealth or social status. For Luke, salvation is a force at work in our world in the here and now, not some future ideal state of being. ■

SAY

Our Lord is the God of justice.

LEARN

For the prophets, the situation of poor people was an indictment of the society.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus, and therefore God, is particularly concerned with the weak and vulnerable members of the community.

Luke has four Beatitudes: Matthew has nine.

In the Bible, salvation involves the overturning of the social order: this is the Great (or Divine) Reversal.

DO

See how you can support the work of the likes of the St Vincent de Paul Society. What could you do to influence social policy in your area or beyond?

REFLECT

One of the criticisms people make of Christianity is that it can breed an attitude of fatalism and resignation in those whose lives take an unfortunate turn, or who find themselves in situations which others would describe as tragic. The extreme form of this outlook is that the worse life is in this world, the better it will be in the next; God will reward you in heaven for all the suffering and deprivation you experienced on earth. This is not the view of the biblical prophets, and Luke is presenting Jesus

as a prophet. The biblical answer to the plight of any disadvantaged person is not charity but justice. It may be necessary to meet someone's immediate needs, but the real problem is the reason why the person is in such straits to begin with. Archbishop Helder Camara said once, "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint; when I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist!" The Word of God is tough on poverty and tough on the causes of poverty. ■



PARISH OF DROMORE

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Sixth 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 17: John McAnarney

Sun 24: Deceased members of the Bingham family

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 17: Patrick Murphy

Geraldine O'Loughlin

Tues 19: Patrick & Kathleen Coyle

Sun 24: Gerard Keenan

William, Margaret & Sean Gribben

Offertory Promise Collection £780.77

Readers - Dromore

Sun 24: Colin Skillen

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. Meeting will be held on Mon 18th at 8.30pm Feb in Ballela school

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 17th February 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 45

£100	Gerard Mulgrew	011
£50	Helen, Suzanne & Angela Brooker	372
£30	Conor Cunningham (Dromore)	137
£20	Margaret Boyle	226

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Fri 15th Feb: 1 4 13 15

£10 winners Paul Hutchinson Seller John Doyle.
Jackpot £2000.

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.

Candle of Atonement

The bishops of Ireland blessed candles of atonement to be lit in cathedrals on Friday 15 February, the annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse, and for the week leading up to the special meeting of bishops in Rome to discuss child safeguarding throughout the universal church. We have lit a candle of atonement in St Colman's, Dromore to join in prayer with this intention. Special prayers will be said at masses this weekend and during the coming week.