

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



THE DISCIPLES BECOME APOSTLES

(JOHN 20:19-31)

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

The Fourth Evangelist never describes the twelve closest disciples of Jesus as *apostles* in his account. They have no share in his ministry.

But now that he has returned to the Father by way of the cross, the glorified Jesus bestows on them the Holy Spirit and sends them out, as the Father had sent him. In the Holy Spirit, the disciples have the continuing presence of Jesus among them, and this is the basis of their peace. The group of frightened, cowering individuals is now filled with joy and empowered for their mission.

In the second episode, Thomas represents the person who comes to a proper understanding of Jesus *without* miraculous proof. He does not believe simply on the word of the others, but equally he does not come to faith by accepting Jesus' challenge to probe his wounds with his finger and hand: in John the evangelist's view, this would not be true faith, but the kind of belief based on signs or wonders, which he has condemned. It is to Thomas that John gives the ultimate confession of faith in Jesus as *My Lord and my God!* The scene (and the Gospel) reaches its climax with Jesus' declaration, *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.* ■

REFLECT

Put yourself in Thomas' shoes: or rather, realise that he is standing in your shoes. Thomas represents those who hear the word of the Gospel, but would still like rather more evidence. It is important that we notice that Thomas comes to believe in the risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples, on the basis of an experience of Jesus' presence, without the added element of actually touching him physically. This would not be the kind of faith that those coming after could possibly have, that is, people

like ourselves. Jesus does not say to his sceptical disciple, *You believe because you have touched me.* For John, the value of a sign is that it points the reader to Jesus and provokes questions about who Jesus is: it does not prove anything by itself, but is a stage in the person's growing in faith. Thomas progresses from being the sceptic to the one who makes the supreme confession about Jesus.

The original Gospel ended with the saying known as the *Johannine Beatitude*, which says, *Blessed are those*

SAY

Blessed are we who have not seen and yet believe!

DO

Look at yourself in the mirror. The words *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe* apply to you. You are a disciple who has received the Holy Spirit. Decide to live each day in the light of this.

LEARN

John does not talk about faith as something we possess: he always uses the verb to *believe*.

Believing means being in a loving relationship with Jesus, as shown in the description of *the disciple whom Jesus loved*.

Thomas does not actually touch the wounds in Jesus' hands and side.

The bishop uses the greeting *Peace be with you* to express the presence of the risen Jesus among the worshipping community.

who have not seen and yet believe. There is very little in the Fourth Gospel about ethics or behaviour, but the main theme is believing. Faith means entering and remaining in a loving relationship with Jesus, and everything else will flow from that. At the end of John's account, there is no ascension: Jesus does not leave his disciples, but remains with them in the Holy Spirit. The Gospel is more than account of what Jesus said and did in his lifetime: it is a message for us today; we are the ones who have not seen and yet believe. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Second Sunday of Easter

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: Liturgy of the word - 9.30am

Tues & Fri: Mass - 9.30am

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thursday - 7.00pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 28: None

Sun 5: James, Rose & John Savage, Loughinisland

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 28: Philomena Walker (Months Mind)

Gerard & Maura Eadie

Sarah, Gerald, Patsy & Kitty Mackin

Joy & Arthur Brooker

Sun 5: Larry McGrath

Offertory Promise Collection £1191.37

Readers - Dromore

Sun 5: Katie Rice

Recently Deceased

Patricia Poland, Beechgrove

Kathleen Burns, Carnew Rd.

Collectors: All Saints - May

Mary Doyle & Paul Rooney

Dromantine Retreats

Dromantine is offering two short retreats, "Awareness and Mindful Living", this retreat will provide ways of releasing stress, letting go of self-judgement and unhelpful comparisons, and enabling us to live fully in the present. Conducted by Martina Lehane Sheehan and Patrick Sheehan on Fri 10th May from 10am - Sun 12th 2pm cost; £190.

"Forgiveness" the journey from hurt to healing, freedom and peace. This day will provide an opportunity to reflect on ways of dealing with life's hurts and disappointments, so that we can let go, move forward and find peace and happiness, conducted by Fr Des Corrigan, SMA on Sat 22nd June from 9.30am - 5pm cost £25 includes lunch and tea/coffee. If interested call 02830821964 or email: admin@dromantineconference.com

Sunday 28th April 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 5

£100	Anne McEvoy	421
£50	Noel Finegan	184
£30	Terry McConville	177
£20	Hugh Pat O'Hare	099

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 21st April : 18 19 21 23

No £10 winners Seller : Sean Burns

Jackpot £2000

Ballela Community Group

Pilates Classes

Next block of Pilate's classes will start on Tues 30th April at 7pm in Ballela School. Cost is £54 for 6 Weeks Contact Sara on 07928674733 or any committee member if you are interested.

Do This In Memory (Week 8)

Will take place in both churches on Sunday 28th April

Tea and Chat

Will take place in St Colman's hall on Sun 28th April after mass. Everyone welcome.

Archbishop Eamon Martin

We welcome Archbishop Eamon as our new Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese. We will have the opportunity to meet Archbishop Eamon as he will be conducting Confirmation in our parish shortly. We pray for him as he takes up the care of our diocesan community.

Confirmation

Will take place on Wed 1st May at 6pm in St Colman's, Dromore.

First Holy communion

Will take place on Sat 11th May at 11am.

Sick Visits

The sick will be visited during the week:

Tues - Ballela & Fri - Dromore

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee

Are holding their annual Church door collection on Sun 12th May in both churches.

Trócaire Boxes

Please return your Trócaire boxes as soon as possible.