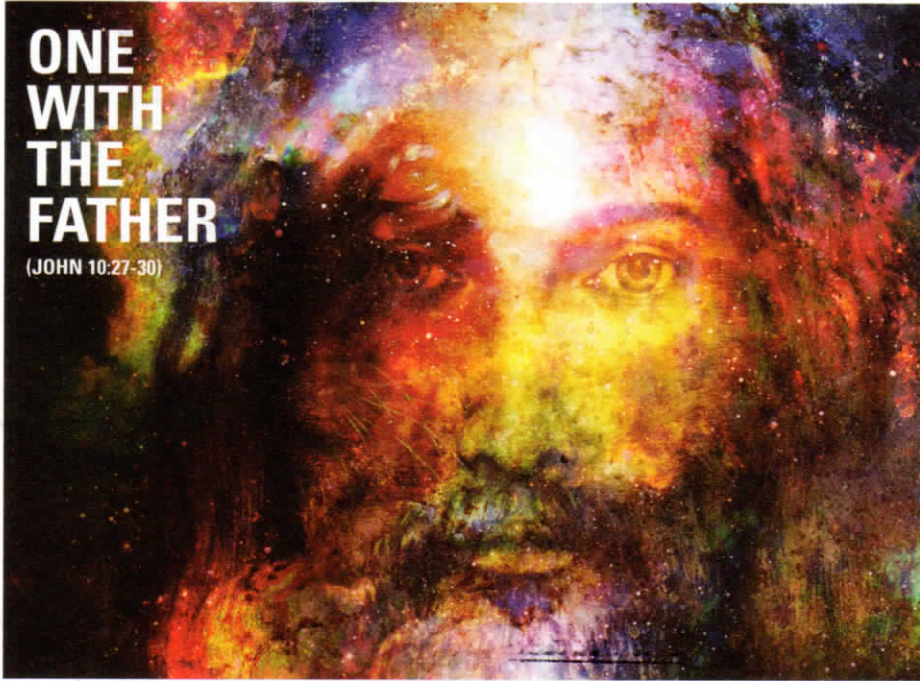


## THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4

## ONE WITH THE FATHER

(JOHN 10:27-30)



In our Gospel passage today, the evangelist presents us with the picture of the true disciple of Jesus: this is the person who listens to his voice, follows him, has eternal life and will never be lost.

It is through committing ourselves to Jesus that believers receive that life which is a gift of the Father. Jesus is speaking to the religious authorities at the time of the Feast of Dedication, when they celebrated the special presence of God in the Temple. Jesus tells them that he is now the visible presence of God among the people, and that it is his word which binds the person who believes not only to him, but also to God, because he and the Father are one. This statement emphasises the oneness of purpose which exists between Jesus and the One who sent him, and this is based on the bond of love and obedience between them.

This extract occurs in the wider context of the Feast of Dedication, which celebrated the re-dedication of the Temple altar after its desecration, so the theme of the presence of God runs through the section. The climax is Jesus' declaring that now in him God is truly present to the people because he and the Father are one. In another place, Jesus tells Philip that to see him is to see the Father, which is saying the same thing in a different way. ■

### REFLECT

In certain western cultures, the image of *sheep* is not a particularly positive one. We hear talk of people *behaving like sheep*, or being *as silly as sheep*: the animal has become a symbol of something without a mind of its own. However, in the Gospel, this is far from the case. In using this figure, Jesus presents his disciple as someone active and decisive. First of all, the person listens to his voice: there is a difference between *hearing* something and *listening* to it. It is on the basis of this listening that the person makes the *decision to follow Jesus*. No-one is driven to become a disciple, and no-one is compelled to continue as one: the shepherd walks in front, and the sheep follow, if they wish. The passage today suggests that they follow because they know what is good for them, not in a calculating, selfish way, but because they have accepted Jesus as the Messiah and committed themselves to him in a relationship of love and obedience, a relationship which mirrors that of Jesus and the Father. The evangelist is telling us that now we meet God in the person of Jesus, not in a particular place. Jesus is present to us in many different ways, especially when we celebrate the Eucharist together and listen to the Word of God and receive the Lord in Holy Communion. Sheep are social animals, and there is one shepherd, Jesus. Anyone who holds the office of shepherd in the church today is still one of the flock and holds the staff as a delegate. We are all called to listen, to follow and to obey Jesus first and foremost. ■

### DO

Look at the tabernacle in the church. Jesus is not confined there, but is present in different ways to us. If we are disciples, we will listen to his voice each day. Set some time aside to be with Jesus, remembering that anywhere will do.

### LEARN

The Temple in Jerusalem was the place where God was regarded as being present to Israel in a special way.

The Feast of Dedication is known today as *Hannukah*.

Hannukah is celebrated in December: John the Evangelist notes that it occurs in winter.

### SAY

Speak, Lord, I am listening.

In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus replaces the Temple as the focus of God's presence in the world.



# PARISH OF DROMORE

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## Fourth 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 & Fri: Liturgy of the word - 9.30am  
Tues: Mass - 9.30am (No mass on Friday)

### Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thursday - 7.00pm

### Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 12: Claire Priestly  
Myrtle McCusker

Thurs 16: Lourdes mass  
William & Kathleen Rooney

Sun 19: Johnny Doyle  
Jim & Lucy McAleenan

### Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 12: Johnny Prentice

Tues 14: Richard Catney

Sun 19: Jack & Jim Moreland

Offertory Promise Collection £964.53

### Readers - Dromore

Sun 19: Caroline Rooney

### Recently Deceased

Catherine Timmons, Blackskull

### Blessing of the Graves

Will take place on the following:

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 2pm - Dromore

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm - Ballela

At both Churches there will be a collection, proceeds will be for cutting and maintenance at both cemeteries, please be as generous as you can.

### Trócaire Boxes

Please return your Trócaire boxes as soon as possible.

### Youth Ministry envelope collection (19<sup>th</sup>

May) This provides support for the valuable work of engaging the youth in a range of activities and ministries across the Diocese, through initiatives like the John Paul II Awards, GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) and other faith-based youth activities. Fostering the faith of our youth is everyone's responsibility.

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Parish Draw Winners Week 7

£100	Hester Robinson	322
£50	Mary McDonald	302
£30	Nicola McKnight	579
£20	Josephine Mulligan	107

### Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> April : 11 18 20 21

£10 winner Sean Burns. Seller : Sean Burns  
Jackpot £2000

### Ballela Community Group

### Internet Safety awareness

We are having a Free "internet Safety Awareness" night for Parents/Adults on **Wed 29<sup>th</sup> May** in Ballela School from 7-8pm, this is a cross community event. Everyone welcome.

Committee meeting is on **Mon 13<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm

### Annadone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

### Committee

Annual Church door collection on **Sun 12<sup>th</sup> May** in both churches. Lourdes mass will take place on **Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May** at 7pm in All Saint's Ballela, followed by tea in the school.

### DROMORE DIOCESAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** at 7:00 pm in St Patrick's Parish Centre, Church St, Ballynahinch, BT24 8AF. A lecture by Horace Reid on "Old Magheradroll Church and Cemetery". The event will commence at the Parish Centre and, weather permitting will proceed to the old cemetery before a visit to the Church of Ireland Church and return to the Parish Centre for refreshments.

### Dromantine Family Fun Day

Will take place on **Sun 9<sup>th</sup> June** with live country music & a host of guest country singers, funfair, Gun dog display, Vintage Tractors, Craft fair stalls and much more. Admission is £5 per car.

### Whist

Whist will take place on **Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May** in St Colman's hall at 8.30pm. Ladies to supply pastry: Frances Kattorah & Sally Doherty.