



THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

(LK 24: 46-53)

Detail from tiled mosaic of the Ascension in All Saints Church, London, designed by Butterfield and painted by Alexander Gibbs (1873)

Luke's Gospel is dramatic in its clarity and brevity today as before Jesus ascends into heaven to sit at the Father's right hand, he reiterates to his disciples his mission on earth.

The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead and the repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all the nations. The risen Christ and the love and mercy of God are teachings that underpin the missionary activity of the Church. After stating his purpose and his desire that his mission should continue through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus blesses them and is taken up into heaven. Of course, this moment is not marked by any sadness or loneliness on the disciples' part. They return to Jerusalem with great joy and stay in the temple to preach and teach everything they have heard.

On this solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus, it is important for us believers to acknowledge that the ascension is not the end, it is only the beginning. In today's first reading, the disciples are instructed not to stand around looking up into the sky wondering where Jesus could possibly have disappeared to. No!! The work of discipleship truly begins after the ascension of Jesus for through the ministry of his followers, the Kingdom of God establishes itself more and more on earth. Remember the recurring theme from Christ's preaching on earth. Jesus will rise from the dead and God's love and mercy will be made known to all the nations. ■

REFLECT

Today, the Catholic Church celebrates *World Communications Day* and most of us can claim to be experts in this field with the advent of smart phones and other devices that bring us into contact with a range of possibilities through the internet. There are huge positives attached to being able to use the internet, not least for people who live away from home and can keep in contact with family through WhatsApp, Facebook and other platforms. Pope Francis himself stated back in 2014 that the internet should be "an environment rich in humanity, a network not of wires but of people".

We not only celebrate today but we also reflect on the current state and nature of relationships on the internet. Cardinal

Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication states that social media can nourish "true, beautiful, solid relationships but it can also fuel hatred". He goes on to state that Pope Francis wants people to view social media not as something that traps you, but something that frees you and that you make an instrument of freedom. On this 53rd World Communications Day, the church underlines the value of interaction understood as dialogue and as an opportunity to meet with others.

Today also confirms Pope Francis' attention to the new communications environment where he is present with his @Pontifex account on Twitter and @Franciscus account on Instagram. ■

LEARN

"The Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way." (Pope Francis)

DO

Remind yourself of the Church's teaching on today's great solemnity. The *Catechism* states: "The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven" (n. 662). Read Luke's two accounts from today's celebration and ask yourself how the Ascension of Jesus impacts on your life.

SAY

"Where there is shouting, let us practise listening; Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony; Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity; Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth."

(Excerpt from Pope Francis for World Communications Day, 2018)

PARISH OF DROMORE

Rev Feidhlimidh Magennis Tel: 07702665123
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

Parish website: www.stcolmans.org
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon
Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Ascension of The Lord

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

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thursday - 7.00pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 2: None
Sun 9: Dan & Sadie McCusker

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 2: None
Sun 9: Mary Mallon
George Burns

Offertory Promise Collection £1591 54

Readers - Dromore

Sun 9: Ciara Cunningham

Collectors - Ballela - June

Martin McCann & Conor Cunningham

Recently Baptised

Éadaoin Cara O'Neill

Blessing of the Graves

Sun 2nd June at 2pm - Dromore
Sun 16th 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.

Southern Health Trust

The Southern Trust Access & Information Service (Phone 028 37564300) takes referrals for over-65s residing in the Trust area for Social Work, Occupational Therapy and Continence Service. We offer advice and information on a range of local services available to anyone aged 65yrs+ living in the Trust, struggling to complete daily living tasks independently and/or feeling isolated or lonely, and would like connected to local support services. Anyone can refer through Access & Information Service - if we cannot take the referral we will signpost or redirect as appropriate.

Sunday 2nd June 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 10

£500	D Brennan	085
£500	Noel Finegan	256

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 19th May : 6 10 20 23

£10 winner: Eddie Watters Seller : Mick Doyle
Jackpot £2000

Dromantine Family Fun Day

Will take place on Sun 9th June at 1.30pm 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.

Youth Volunteering at Knock Shrine

16 to 18 years old - Fri 28th to Sun 30th June or Fri 16th to Sun 18th August. Cost £60 each - covers transport, accommodation and food and a T/shirt. For information contact Frances at Diocesan Youth Office. 02830833898 or email - dromored@btconnect.com for a registration form.

Diocesan Summer Camps

Diocesan Summer Camps will take place at the YMCA, Newcastle on the following dates:

2nd to 5th July for 12 Year olds
9th to 13th July for 13 & 14 Year olds
15th to 19th July for 15 & 16 Year olds.

A residential experience with adventures out-door activities, great food, meet new people - places available - phone Frances @ 028 30833898 or email dromoreyd@btconnect.com for a registration form.

The Dromore, Ballela and Annaclone Lourdes committee

Would like to thank everyone for their generosity at our collection before Lourdes and throughout the year. In appreciation we got a Mass card to include you all in our nine masses in Lourdes and we would like every family to take home a bottle of Lourdes water after mass today.

Next meeting Mon 3rd June at 8.30pm in Ballela school.

ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL, GL

Information Evening Tuesday 4th June at 4.30pm. Parents and P6 pupils are invited to attend.