



## AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY

(LUKE 10:38-42)

Over the past couple of weeks, Luke's Gospel has given us some vivid presentations of the work of Jesus and his disciples on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem; and a presumption we can make about the gathering in Martha and Mary's house is that the men were most certainly hungry.

Martha is obviously taking charge of the preparation of food and "was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made". We can picture her bustling around the kitchen area and worrying perhaps that she might not have enough food to go around. But rather than help her sister, Mary has decided to become involved with the meeting of men that is taking place in the other room. This would have been a common occurrence in Jesus' time, the teacher or rabbi holding court while his students listened. Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening intently to his every word. By sitting at his feet, she has chosen to become his disciple. Martha of course enters this scene full of frustration: "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?" At this point it could be said that very rarely if ever Jesus gets involved in family squabbles, especially between two sisters! His response, "Mary has chosen what is better" reflects Mary's devotion to the Son of Man and her discipleship will truly be rewarded. ■

### LEARN

"Jesus was aware of the purpose of his mission: to announce the Kingdom of God and make it present in his own Person, in his actions, and in his words, so that the world would become reconciled with God and renewed."

(International Theological Commission)

### DO

Read this Gospel again and become more conscious of the interactions between Christ and his disciples. The Gospel is a little light on information but try to imagine what the conversation might have been after their arduous journey.

### REFLECT

I don't claim to be a scripture scholar but I read what they have to write, and former Anglican Bishop of Durham, N.T. Wright, states that what marks Jesus in the Gospels, especially in the Gospel of Luke, is his overturning of social conventions. In his interactions with tax collectors, Samaritans, Roman soldiers, he touches the unclean, all in service for the Kingdom of God. But his radical inclusion of women into his life and ministry shows that Jesus welcomed the discipleship of women. Remember, he spoke to a woman publicly at a well, he forgave the adulterous woman, he allowed women into his inner circle and the first witnesses of the resurrection were women. N.T. Wright states that Martha was in the space reserved for women and she knew her role. The world of Jesus placed women in the food preparation area and that's why Mary's presence at the feet of Jesus is so unusual and extraordinary. She takes on the attitude of a disciple while being surrounded by disciples and perhaps Mary's actions were not only offensive to Martha but also to the other disciples too. St Paul once said that in Christ there is no slave or free, no Jew or Greek, no male or female. This statement in itself is very radical because these were the most basic social divisions of the time. But as Bishop Robert Barron states, "the radicality of Jesus cuts through social conventions". Did Jesus care when women assumed roles of discipleship or leadership?

Today is a celebration of the women in Jesus' life and in the life of the church. ■

### SAY

God, my Father,  
You have promised to remain forever with those who do what is just and right. Help me to live in Your presence.  
Keep before me the wisdom and love  
You have made known in Your Son.  
Help me to be like Him in word and deed. Amen.



## PARISH OF DROMORE

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### Sixteenth 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: 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: Mass 7.00pm

#### Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 21: None

Sun 28: Theresa McGivern, Andy McGivern  
Sid King

#### Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 21: Philomena & Francie McCrory  
Patricia McCann

Sun 28: Mary Murphy

Offertory Promise Collection £892.35

#### Readers - Dromore

Sun 28: John McKeown

#### St Vincent de Paul Annual Outing

Annual Senior Citizens outing to Carlingford will take place on **Sunday 11th August 2019**. Transport will leave from the Parochial Hall, Dromore at 1.15pm returning at about 8.00pm. Application Forms are available in the Porch of St Colman's church and in the Parochial Hall.

#### St Vincent de Paul, Back to school – causing financial difficulties.

Maybe St Vincent de Paul can help contact us on our Hotline 07738838187 or put your name and phone number in St Vincent de Paul Red collection box.

#### Volunteering at Knock Shrine 15 to 18 years old

A great opportunity to meet new people help others learn about Knock and have fun. **Friday 16th to Sunday 18th August**. To Sign up or find out more information please contact Youth Ministry Office, 39-41 The Mall, Newry, BT34 1AN. Tel: 028 3083 3898 or email: [dromoreyd@btconnect.com](mailto:dromoreyd@btconnect.com).

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 17

£100	Hester Robinson	322
£50	Grania Shillington	058
£30	John McKeown	186
£20	Derek Marks	062

#### Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 7th July: 6 13 14 19

No winners

Seller: Sean Burns

Jackpot £2000

#### Ballela Community Group

We are organising a trip to the Ulster Aviation Society at the Maze on **Sat 27<sup>th</sup> July** where you can see an unique array of over 30 aircraft and observe restoration in progress in two historic WWII hangers. Bus leaves Ballela school at 10am and it is filling fast only a few seats left, there will be a charge for the bus for adults but children are free. Admission to exhibit is by donation. To book a place phone Patricia O'Rourke: 07712933854 or Paula Burns: 02840671772

#### Messy Children's Liturgy

Messy Children's Liturgy will be running together with SeaPatrick Parish this summer on the following dates:  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> (Parish Centre, St Therese's, Banbridge)  
July 30<sup>th</sup> (All Saints' School, Ballela)  
August 13<sup>th</sup> (All Saints' School, Ballela)  
August 20<sup>th</sup> (Parish Centre, St Therese's, Banbridge)  
Messy Children's Liturgy is open to all ages including children, parents and grandparents. Join us to explore characters from the Old Testament through different crafts, activities and fun. Each session will begin at 10am and finish around 11.30am with tea, coffee and chat. For more information see Jill or Michael  
Tel: 02840671401.

#### Pastoral Visits in Hospitals

Parishioners with relatives in hospital should inform the priest of the parish if they wish a pastoral visit for their sick relative. This is important, as priests visiting hospitals no longer have access to patient's lists.

#### Blood Transfusion Service

Next blood donation session will be held in Cathedral Church Hall, Dromore on **Wed 24<sup>th</sup> July**  
2pm -4pm & 5.15pm – 8pm.

Do you need financial or practical assistance or even a friendly chat?

The St. Vincent De Paul Society is here to help. You can contact us through our helpline number: 07738838187