



# THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE

(LUKE 14:25-33)

As Jesus journeys towards Jerusalem, a large crowd gathers around him, and he turns and speaks to them. To be a disciple of Jesus is a choice: no one is compelled to follow him.

There is also a cost: the following of Jesus must be the prism through which the person should see the rest of their life and their relationships: even the closest human bonds have to be reassessed in the light of this. It is not a question of actually hating anyone. Jesus is not speaking in emotional terms: he is saying that if anyone is more important to the would-be disciple, then the person should think again. He expresses the same idea in the examples of the builder and the warrior-king: they are about to embark on ambitious projects, but they would be wise to consider seriously whether or not they will be able to complete their undertaking. Unless a person can be single-minded in their following of Jesus, then they should think twice about joining him. The mention of the person carrying their own cross reminds us that this is not simply another general way of talking about discipleship, but that each person has their own individual path to tread. ■

## DO

Put a cross in your pocket in the morning for a few days and carry it with you. Finger it every so often and think about what it means to you to be a disciple of Jesus.

## REFLECT

One reason why certain biblical passages cause so much distress to people is that the literal English translation can sometimes convey a narrower meaning than that which the original text intends. The verb 'to hate' in today's passage is a case in point: it is not meant to convey the sense of 'to despise'. Perhaps a better way of understanding it would be 'to be detached from': it is saying that nothing, and no-one, even those to whom we are naturally closest, should be more important to us than Jesus. Often the Bible will use exaggerated language or examples to make an important point. So the lesson is that to be a disciple is the result of a choice, a choice which each person has to make for themselves. Simply being baptised as an infant is not enough. The best catechetical instruction will not make the person a disciple. Going to a Catholic

or other Christian school is no guarantee that the person will turn what they have received into a personal commitment. Many 'cradle Catholics' have a sneaking envy about those who come into the church at a later stage in their life, because they feel that these individuals have made a truly personal decision for themselves, and simply renewing their own baptismal promises at Easter is not quite the same thing.

The cross which each one of us has to carry need not be necessarily something which is painful and burdensome. It is a reminder that to be a disciple of Jesus comes with a cost: for Jesus it symbolises his giving of his life in service of all: but the cross is also the means by which Jesus entered into glory; it will be the same for us. ■

## LEARN

To 'hate' (in this context) does not mean to despise:

It is an example of biblical exaggerated language, emphasising that the disciple must regard Jesus as the most important person in their life.

The Fourth Commandment stresses the honour and respect due to a person's parents.

## SAY

**Anyone who does not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:27)**

## PARISH OF DROMORE

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### Twenty Third 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

**Thurs**: 7pm

#### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 8**: Hugh Lavery (MM)

**Sun 15**: None

#### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 8**: Dennis Mallon

Vincent Gracey

**Sun 15**: James, Margaret & Francie McDonald

Offertory Promise Collection £756.20

#### Readers – Dromore

**Sun 15**: Ciara Cunningham

#### Recently Deceased

Sheila McDonnell, Jubilee heights, Dromore

#### Sacrament of First Penance, First Holy

#### Communion & Confirmation

Pupils in Primary 4 & 7, Sept 2019.

Parents of children attending schools other than the parish or neighbouring parish schools who wish to have their children prepared for these sacraments are requested to inform Fr Magennis as soon as possible.

#### Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct)

Today, Christians come together to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and to observe the Season of Creation until 4<sup>th</sup> October (the feast of St Francis). We will join this year by offering specific Prayers of the Faithful for creation during masses and by hosting an event within the Season. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

#### Whist

Whist will take place on **Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8.00pm**  
ladies to supply pastry: Trudy Moreland & Maureen Brooker.

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 24

£100	Chris & Maria Quinn	010
£50	Andrew & Louise Stewart	038
£30	Carol Marks	228
£20	Ciara Cunningham	049

#### Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Sept : 6 14 17 24

No £10 winners

Seller: Sean Burns

Jackpot £2000

#### Ballela Tractor & Vintage Vehicle Run

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Registration from 12pm. £10 per vehicle. Run starts at 2pm from G.A.A pitch.

#### Ballela Community Group

Next meeting is on **Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Sept** at 7.30pm.

#### RAISE YOUR CUPS TO 30 YEARS OF HOSPICE

CARE Southern Area Hospice Services is celebrating 30 years of local Hospice care this year and are encouraging local people to host a coffee morning to raise vital funds to help maintain their services. This year's official coffee morning is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. To register as a host and receive your fundraising pack, email [byrneb@southernareahospiceservices.org](mailto:byrneb@southernareahospiceservices.org) or call 028 3025 1333

#### Family Care Services collection 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

This collection provides funds for services such as ACCORD, CURA and the Armagh Marriage Tribunal. These services are available for any parishioner at particular times of need, regardless of ability to pay. Thus they need our support to provide funding so that each service is delivered in a professional and effective manner.

#### Family Care Adoption Services (1969-2019)

Family Care Services is presently seeking adoptive families for babies, young children aged 2 years and older and brothers and sisters. To find out more information please contact us at: 02871368592 or 02890691133, Mon –Fri 9am to 5pm or email: [anneohagan@familycaresociety.org](mailto:anneohagan@familycaresociety.org)

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