

LOST AND FOUND

(LUKE 15:1-32)

In today's Gospel passage, Luke presents us with the different reactions to the prophetic word of Jesus.

On the one hand, people regarded as socially undesirable are drawing near to him, to listen to him: on the other, the religious leaders are muttering because Jesus welcomes and shares table-fellowship with "sinners". Once more, sharing a meal becomes the reason for division. This is the occasion for Jesus' telling three parables which exemplify God's attitude towards people represented by the tax-collectors and sinners: these are the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son. In all of them, the main character, the shepherd, the woman, the father, is shown as being anxious, either actively searching for what they have lost, or intently watching for the wayward son to return. All are overjoyed when their hopes are fulfilled and a great celebration marks the event.

The positive attitude of the tax-collectors and sinners, the joy which the main characters in the parables show contrasts sharply with the negative standpoint of the religious leaders: Luke personifies this in the character of the elder son in the third parable. He is, in many ways, a tragic figure: although he has stayed at home and done all the right things, he is full of resentment at his father. He does not appreciate what he has or the love his father obviously has for him: the father goes out to speak to him, just as he ran to greet the younger brother. Does he accept his father's invitation, set aside his grudges and join the celebrations? Luke leaves us to finish the story ourselves. ■

SAY

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)



REFLECT

What is your opinion of the older brother? Do you regard him as selfish and unreasonable, hanging on to his wounded feelings in spite of his father's pleading? Or do you have a sneaking sympathy for him and think that his complaints are justified?

The parables are a trap. They invite us to make a judgment and then to rethink our opinion in the light of the way God sees people and situations. We are presented with two reactions to the returning young man, that of the father and that of the elder brother, and asked, Which of these two characters represents myself? It may well be that the elder brother is jealous of his younger sibling who had the courage, or at least the recklessness, to do what he himself would have liked to do: get away from the constraints of home, kick over the traces and live a life of riot. It is interesting that his comment about his brother's indiscretions with women comes apparently from his own imagination rather than from the report Luke gives us of the younger one's activities. Wishful thinking?

We are also being challenged as a church as to how we treat people who return after a time away. They may well be coming back because they realise how much they need the community and the sacraments. Are we glad or resentful? ■

LEARN

The floor of the house of the woman in the parable would have been made of earth: the coin might therefore have been trodden into the ground.

Luke's pairing of the parables of the man and the sheep and the woman and the coin is typical of his writing.

The younger son having to look after pigs is a sign of his being reduced to utter degradation: no Jewish audience could have imagined a situation more humiliating.

DO

When someone comes back to church and the sacraments, make them feel welcome.



PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twenty Fourth 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 15: Patrick & Margaret McAleenan
Mona Clarke

Sun 22: Sr Bronagh Mehan
Brigid O'Rourke

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 15: James, Margaret & Francie McDonald
Kathleen Burns

Sun 22: Rosalind Rooney
Isabel McEvoy

Offertory Promise Collection £904.40

Readers – Dromore

Sun 22: Claire Downey

Sacrament of First Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Pupils in Primary 4 & 7, Sept 2019.

Parents of children attending schools other than St Colman's Dromore or neighbouring parish schools e.g. St Colman's Annaclone or St Mary's Banbridge who wish to have their children prepared for these sacraments are requested to inform Fr Magennis as soon as possible. We will be starting the classes in a few weeks' time and must have names in before the end of Sept if children are to receive the sacraments next year.

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

Autumn Leaves Are holding a charity night Dance in St Colman's Hall Dromore on Fri 4th Oct 8pm – late. Music by Chris Betts plus Ballot. Admission £10 includes supper supplied by Eurospar Dromore. All proceeds for Southern Area Hospice. Come along and bring a friend.

Sunday 15th Sept 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 25

£100	Thomas McClory	596
£50	Paul Delaney	341
£30	Kathleen McPolin	561
£20	Evan Doyle	338

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 8th Sept : 2 4 15 23

£10 winners: Daniel McGivern

Seller: Anglers Rest

Jackpot £2000

Ballela Tractor & Vintage Vehicle Run

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

Family Care Services collection 15th 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.or

The Gall Bog Bar Threshing & Tractor Run and Family Fun Day

Will be held on Sat 28th sept with Registration at 12.00pm. There will be a BBQ & Raffle. The Charities being supported are N.I. Air Ambulance & Willow Grove.

September on Lough Derg

Standard One Day Retreats in September: Sat 21, Sun 22 & Sun 29. Special Living with Suicide Day Retreat, Sat 28 September. Advance booking is essential for any of these dates. Tel 071 9861518 or email info@loughderg.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