



## MERELY SERVANTS?

(LUKE 17:5-10)

Our Gospel passage today is part of a longer section in which Jesus has already warned his hearers about giving scandal to “any of these little ones” and the punishment which will follow.

Next comes the requirement to forgive a member of the community if the guilty party repents. His teaching up to now can be understood in a general way, applying to everyone: these rather stinging remarks are addressed to the disciples themselves. The first of the sayings which we hear in today’s Gospel section comes with the apostles asking Jesus to “increase our faith”: Jesus’ reply suggests that they do not have any faith at all or it would be shown in their lives through power.

These three demands – not giving scandal, forgiving others, and having faith – are the minimum requirements for life in the Kingdom: these are the basic conditions, so disciples should not expect thanks or a reward for doing what they have been commanded. Luke actually uses the word slave: a slave has no rights or meaningful relationship with the person usually described as his or her owner. Jesus is not condoning this social structure but using it to make the point that his disciples should not regard living by his teaching as something to be proud of or anything to boast about. It is a duty, and all are “merely servants”. ■

### LEARN

The church is essentially the People of God.

Baptism is the fundamental sacrament: through baptism we are all members of a royal priesthood and a holy nation.

The first vocation for all the members of the People of God is to be a disciple of Jesus: how we live out that calling depends on the individual. No way of living out Christian discipleship is essentially better or higher than any other.

### REFLECT

It is interesting that Luke presents Jesus here as speaking to “the apostles” rather than the disciples. It is true that this teaching applies to all the followers of Jesus, but it is, nonetheless, directed specifically at the inner circle of twelve specially chosen individuals. There is always a temptation for members of an inner circle to see themselves as somehow apart from the general group and perhaps in some way above the other members. There are warnings in the Gospel about allowing structures from civil society to take root in the community of disciples and about the danger of office-bearers and teachers being given titles and other special marks of respect. The emphasis is that all disciples of Jesus are sisters and brothers, and to exercise authority is to be the servant of all.

The fact that Jesus’ comment about being “merely servants” is addressed to the apostles could be something worth pondering today. The church is the People of God. It does not consist of the clergy alone, and not the ‘higher clergy’ at that. When the press condemns ‘the church’ for the scandals and cover-ups of recent years, it should really be talking about those who hold positions of authority among the People of God. Members, lay and ordained, who celebrate the Eucharist and try to live out the Gospel teachings of Jesus in their daily lives are not responsible for the appalling crimes, abuses of power and cover-ups which have come to light. To ask lay members to pray and to do penance could seem like trying to spread the responsibility – and blame. ■

### DO

Make the sign of the cross with holy water and renew your baptismal commitment to Jesus. Pray for the leaders within the People of God.

### SAY

**I am doing no more than my duty as a disciple of Jesus.**

## PARISH OF DROMORE

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### Twenty Seventh 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 6: None

Sun 13: Daniel & Margaret Devlin  
Henry O'Hare

#### Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 6: Hugh Downey  
Mary Murphy

Sun 13: None

#### Offertory Promise Collection £850.85

#### Readers – Dromore

Sun 13: Michaella Zigashane

#### Recently Baptised

Dáithí Tomás Carson

#### St Colman's P.S 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

St Colman's P.S Dromore are celebrating 50 years in their current school building. We are looking for any old pictures or memorabilia of the school which could be used in an event to commemorate its anniversary. If you any items you would like to contribute, memories you would like to share or can help in any way please contact the school on 92692628 or email

[info@stcolmans.dromore.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stcolmans.dromore.ni.sch.uk).

#### Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

#### Committee

Meeting will be held on **Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct at 8.30pm** in Ballela School.

#### Do This In memory

A meeting for the parents of children in the parish who will be making their First Holy Communion in 2020 will be held in The parochial House on **Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Oct at 8.00pm**. This meeting is for parents only, children do not need to attend.

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 28

£100	Louise McEntee	152
£50	Noel Burns	332
£30	Maureen Brooker	371
£20	Maureen McMurray	166

#### Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Sept : 5 8 10 18

No £10 winner's

Seller: Sean Burns

Jackpot £2000

#### An evening in celebration of John Henry

#### Newman

To mark the forthcoming canonisation of John Henry Newman, the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's invites you to an evening of celebration on his feast day, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Mass will be celebrated in the Chaplaincy, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, at 7pm and will be followed by a talk *Newman's Idea of a University* to be given by Dr Andrew Meszaros, Maynooth. Light refreshments afterwards.

#### Mothers' Union Invitation

Dromore Cathedral Mothers' Union would like you to join them at this year's Visitors' Evening on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct at 8pm when they will have the Rev Canon Derek Kerr from Randelstown speaking about his association with the Royal Family and his collection of memorabilia. If you would like to attend please contact Mary Burns Tel: 07917517520 by 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.

#### Prayer for Life, Peace and Reconciliation

On **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Oct** we will have an extended period (9.30 – 12 noon) of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the protection of the unborn in our society and for women facing difficult pregnancies and their families.

#### St Joseph's Young Priest's Society

Annual half day retreat will be held on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019** in Dromantine. Cost £10. Light refreshments will be available on arrival at 1.30 pm and mid-afternoon. Mass will be celebrated at 4.45pm. All are welcome to attend. Contact Patricia 028 30821286 or Catherine 028 97562478 if attending.

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