



**THE GRATEFUL FOREIGNER** (LUKE 17:11-19)

Fresco in church in Parma, Italy, depicting Jesus healing the ten lepers

Jesus' journey to Jerusalem continues southwards towards the hostile region of Samaria. Pilgrims on the way to the Holy City often encountered difficulties from the Samaritans, who had been the enemies of the Jewish people for more than 500 years.

For the second time, Luke presents a Samaritan in a positive light. Out of ten lepers healed by Jesus, only this one, whom Jesus describes as a "foreigner", comes back to thank Jesus for his cure.

The miracle stories of Jesus have a more profound meaning than simply the restoring of the person to physical health. They are symbolic of the healing of the whole person, of Jesus' meeting the deepest needs of the person. One of the consequences for people suffering from leprosy was that they were isolated physically from everyone else: they had to live apart and could take no part in the social and religious life of the local community. So by curing their bodily ailment, Jesus was restoring the individuals to full membership of the nation. The miracles are works of power, through which the Kingdom breaks through into situations where human life is restricted or endangered in any way. Praise of God is the appropriate response to any such intervention. The irony in the story today is that the nine, presumably Jewish, other characters, fail even to show gratitude to Jesus for delivering them from their condition and their isolation. Only the representative of Israel's long-standing enemy since the return from exile in Babylon shows proper respect and gratitude to the God of Israel and to Jesus. ■

**SAY**

**Praise the Lord!**

**DO**

Look and listen to the people around you in the street: is there any type of person who automatically provokes a negative reaction? How would you feel if they acted towards you as Luke's Good Samaritan did?



**LEARN**

The term "leprosy" was used in biblical times to describe any skin complaint: it did not always refer to a serious or contagious condition.

Luke presents the Samaritan in an unexpectedly positive light, as he also does in the parable of the Good Samaritan: in this way, he is challenging us to rethink our prejudices and our stereotypes of other people.

The miracles of Jesus are described as "acts of power", God's Kingdom breaking into human life to put things right.

**REFLECT**

The term "leprosy" covered a wide variety of skin complaints, ranging from the highly infectious disease which wasted the person's flesh at one extreme to conditions such as dandruff at the other. When there was a perceived possibility of infection, the immediate reaction was to put a blanket ban on everyone who was affected, so that the general population would be safe. The person was effectively excommunicated from the community.

In less sensitive times, it was common to speak of treating certain people as lepers. This could apply to those who, for one reason or another, found themselves in a moral situation which was less than ideal: other people who used to be their friends now avoided them out of fear of being regarded as guilty by association. Those who found themselves in an irregular marriage situation were, and sometimes still are, told that they are not welcome at the Eucharist. But it was precisely because he mixed with

women and men who were regarded by the religiously correct figures as not reputable that Jesus found himself in trouble and the object of criticism. Pope Francis is fond of saying that the Eucharist is not a reward for being a good Christian, but a healing remedy and a means to becoming a good Christian. Do people who feel their need of the church find in our parishes a welcome, or do they experience being treated like lepers? ■



## PARISH OF DROMORE

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### Twenty Eighth 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 13: Daniel & Margaret Devlin

Henry O'Hare

Elizabeth McCusker

Sun 20: Anthony McEvoy

#### Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 13: None

Sun 20: Bella Finegan, Peter Finegan (Months Mind)

Offertory Promise Collection £1116.96

#### Readers – Dromore

Sun 20: Grainne Killiner

#### Recently Deceased

George Patrick (Geordie) Gorman

#### Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee Lourdes reunion mass for pilgrims and workers will be on **Sunday 20th October 3pm** in St Therese church Banbridge and refreshments will be served after in the parish centre

#### Do This In memory, Enrolment Sunday

Will take place on **Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Oct** in both churches.

#### Propagation of the Faith Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Oct

"Today, vast numbers of people just do not know Jesus Christ. For this reason, the mission to the nations continues to be most urgent. World Mission Day is a privileged moment when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of young Churches in mission lands" (Pope Francis). Your contribution is one way in which you can fulfil your call to be a 'missionary'.

#### Tea and Chat

Tea and chat will take place on **Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Oct** in St Colman's hall Dromore after 11am mass.

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 29

£100	Eileen Magee	200
£50	Margaret Downey	028
£30	John Murphy	135
£20	Carol McCarthy	042

#### Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Oct : 7 9 15 22

£10 winner's: Mabel McCarthy & Chrissy Burns

Seller: Sean Burns    Jackpot £2000

Ballela G.A.C presents **MR & Mrs Game show** on Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 8pm in Belmont Hotel admission £10

#### Ballela Community Group

Pub Quiz will take place on **Sat 26<sup>th</sup> of October** in the Gall Bog Lounge at 8.30pm. Admission is £5 per person and a Maximum of 6 people per team. Cash Prize for winning team. Light supper served.

#### Mothers' Union Invitation

Dromore Cathedral Mothers' Union would like you to join them at this year's Visitors' Evening on **Wed 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.

#### 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. Contact Patricia 028 30821286 or Catherine 028 97562478 if attending.

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

In their current school building. We are having a special evening on **Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Nov** and invite everyone along for a little trip down memory lane. We are looking for any old pictures or memorabilia of the school which could be used at the 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).

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