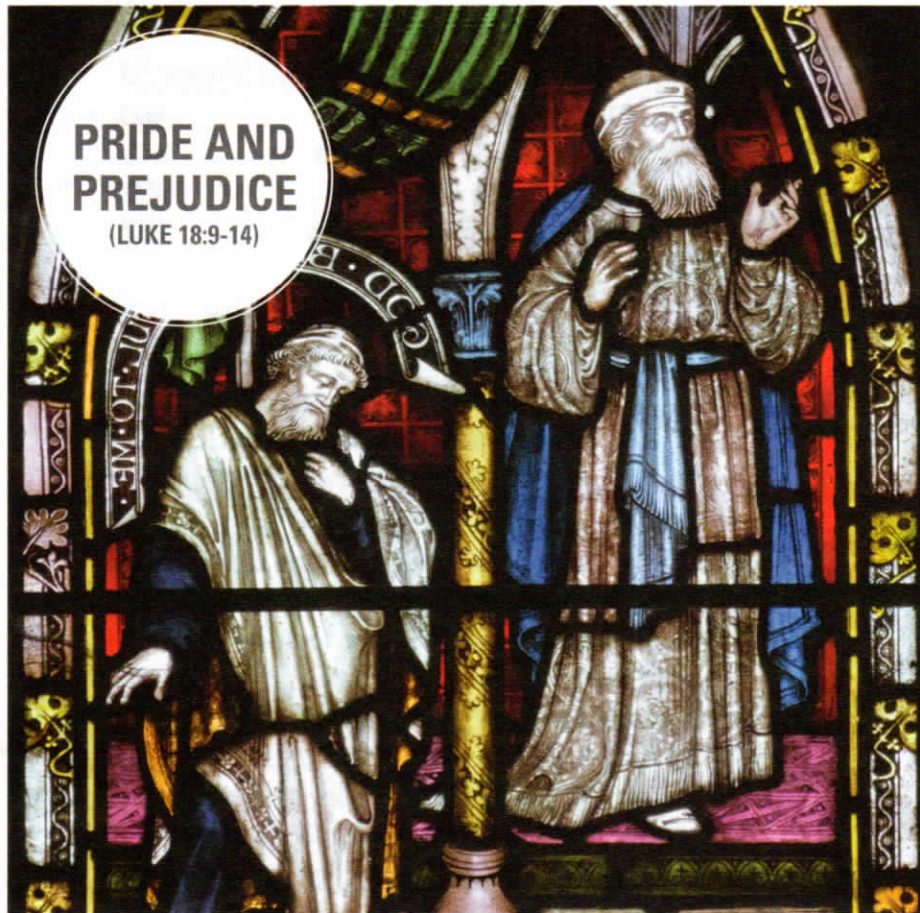


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

(LUKE 18:9-14)

The Prayers of Pharisees and Tax Collectors in the Temple, depicted in stained glass in St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington High Street, London

Once more, Luke returns to his comparison between the apparently righteous religious leaders and those on the margins. In one sense, the Pharisee is correct about his behaviour: he has indeed lived up to his obligations.

There is nothing wrong in his reciting his good works: this was part of the prayer of the time. His fault lies in his comparing himself with other people, and in particular the tax-collector, to the detriment of the latter. He also makes a sweeping judgment about the moral condition of "the rest of mankind". Jesus presents him as saying his prayer to himself, an ironic comment, if ever there was one. Hence the observation that Jesus' audience prided themselves on being virtuous is even more poignant, because this is a term that Luke applies to very few persons in the Gospel: people like Elizabeth and Zechariah, who are exemplary in their observance of the Law. The Pharisee is just as punctilious in his observance: but this is cancelled out by his judgmental attitude.

The tax-collector, on the other hand, is a model of humility. He recognises who and what he really is. He offers no excuses, makes no long speeches, but simply says, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner". It is his self-acceptance which justifies him. Luke ends the parable with the message about situations being reversed by God: God will humble those who exalt themselves and God will exalt those who humble themselves. ■

SAY

God, be merciful to me, a sinner

(Luke 18:13)

DO

Develop your conscious contact with God so that you are aware of God's presence in your life throughout the day.

REFLECT

Humility is a word which often gets a bad press. It is sometimes identified with humiliation: a person who has been humiliated does not necessarily become humble; they may end up ashamed or resentful. Humility is sometimes described as 'being right-sized': this suggests that people have a proper appreciation of themselves, they acknowledge their talents, their shortcomings and accept their limitations. The Pharisee represents persons who are self-sufficient, who tell the Lord how good they are and do not see the need to ask for the gift of being made righteous: in their eyes, this is something they have earned. The tax-collector has no illusions about himself and only asks for mercy. He receives the gift because he acknowledges his need of it.

There is a warning for all of us in this parable. It is always possible for people who pray and carry out all their religious obligations to become complacent about their own situation and also become judgmental about others. This can happen without their being aware of it. Prayer can also become a self-centred rather than God-centred exercise, if we fall into the habit of saying prayers by rote and forget that it is essentially a conversation with God: it is a relationship between God and ourselves. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves occasionally whether our devotions are bringing us closer to God, or whether they have become simply a habit, an end in themselves. The Pharisee was doing all the right things and thought he was close to God: he was wrong. ■

LEARN

The proper posture for prayer in the Bible is standing.

Prayer is a relationship with God.

To be humble is to accept ourselves as we are, with our positive qualities and our limitations.



PARISH OF DROMORE

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Thirtieth 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: Mass 9.30am

Feast of All Saints: Fri - Mass 9.30am & 7pm

Feast of All Souls: Sat - Mass 10am

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thurs: 7pm – Vigil for All Saints Day

November Dead Lists

During November, we pray at each mass for all our faithful departed included in the November Dead List: please collect a list from the back of the church and return as soon as possible.

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 27: None

Sun 3: Hugh, Mary Teresa & Hugh Jnr McCusker
Willie John McPolin
John Patrick McEvoy

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 27: John & Bridget Maginess & deceased members of The Maginess Family.

Sun 3: Elizabeth Lennon

Offertory Promise Collection £1324.65

Readers – Dromore

Sun 3: Brendan McCann

Collectors All Saints – November

Bernard McCusker & John Doyle

Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School

Present the musical 'Bugsy Malone' from Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th November. Doors open 7pm, show-time at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the school General Office or by calling 028 3026 3142 8.30am -4-30pm. Tuesday night £7 for all tickets, Wednesday-Friday £10

Masses for those who died since Nov 2018

Will be held in both churches on **Sun 24th Nov**.

Please inform the office of parishioners not buried in the parish to be included in this mass.

Sunday 27th Oct 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 31

£100	Gerard Mulgrew	011
£50	Martin McDonald	241
£30	C,S & L Higgins	569
£20	Lucinda Maginess	127

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 20th Oct: 3 7 14 21

No £10 winner's

Seller: Sean Burns Jackpot £2000

St Colman's P.S Dromore 50th Celebration

In their current school building. We are having a special evening on **Wed 20th Nov from 6pm to 7.30pm** 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.

BBC Songs of Praise is coming.

You are warmly invited to a special music recording of hymns and songs at Downpatrick Cathedral on **Monday 25th November 6:30pm-9:30pm**. To apply for free tickets, please send your name, address, contact phone number and number of tickets requested to SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv.

Please include 'Songs of Praise Downpatrick' in your subject header. Alternatively, you can call us on 0161 873 7073 to book your tickets.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited as follows:

Ballela – Tuesday morning

Dromore - Wednesday

The 2020 Lourdes pilgrimage

Will take place between the **12th -17th may 2020**.

This is a very special year as it is the golden jubilee of the Dromore diocesan pilgrimage. We would encourage anyone considering travelling as a pilgrim or to be considered as an assisted pilgrim (sick) to book early to avoid disappointment. Please contact any committee member for further advice.

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