



THE DETERMINED ZACCHAEUS

(LUKE 19:1-10)

A carving of Christ and Zacchaeus in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris

Zacchaeus is a person with three disadvantages: 1. He is a tax-collector, and a senior one at that; 2. He is wealthy; 3. He is short in stature. His great advantage, though, is that he is “anxious” to see Jesus, to find out who exactly he is.

He is so determined to satisfy his curiosity that he is prepared to set aside the dignity of his position to climb a tree in the sight of all the people of Jericho and risk their laughter and scorn. His willingness pays off. Jesus sees him and invites himself to dinner at Zacchaeus’ house. Once more we see the significance of sharing a meal, and Zacchaeus responds “joyfully”, which in Luke’s Gospel is a sign that salvation has been extended and accepted. The tax-collector is transformed and promises to distribute his money to the poor and to observe the demands of the Law by paying back to the full if he discovers that he has overcharged anyone.

Of course, the killjoys are at hand to present the other attitude by grumbling about Jesus sharing table-fellowship with “a sinner”. This gives Zacchaeus the opportunity to stop in full view of them and declare to Jesus his firm purpose of amendment. Jesus responds by identifying him as a “son of Abraham”. The story began with Zacchaeus seeking Jesus: it ends with Zacchaeus being the one sought and found. ■

SAY

The Lord is kind and full of compassion
(Psalm 144:8)

LEARN

Jericho is situated about eight miles north of the Dead Sea, and 15 miles from Jerusalem.

Jericho was a popular winter resort for the people of Jerusalem, which was at an altitude of 2,500 feet, so cold and windy at that time of the year.

In Luke’s Gospel, joy is a sign that the Messianic Kingdom is present.

DO

Look up into a tree, especially one by a busy road: would you be prepared to climb up it to catch a glimpse of Jesus? What would you think of someone who would be?



REFLECT

Jesus has already met another rich and prominent person who reacted in the opposite way to Zacchaeus. In contrast to Zacchaeus, the rich ruler found that he could not accept Jesus’ teaching that the price of eternal life was giving away his fortune to the poor. Zacchaeus exhibits joy and spontaneous generosity in the face of Jesus’ accepting him because he realises that this means that he was saved. The other person becomes sad, because he cannot bear to part with his possessions. The cost is too high for him.

Poverty is something that we feel should not exist. Luke and the prophets do not romanticise poor people or their plight: they do not say that we should all be destitute. What they do say is that if some individuals are suffering as a result of not having enough while others have more than they need or can use, then this is an injustice and a stain on God’s covenant people.

Perhaps we ought to ask if the way in which our society is structured may be sinful. In a lot of teaching and preaching,

sin is seen as something personal, almost private, an offence against God, usually in limited moral terms. But there is something more serious which is called ‘structural sin’, where an unjust society is the inevitable outcome of economic policies. As Archbishop Helder Camara said, “When I give food to the hungry, they call me a saint: when I ask why the hungry have no food, they call me a communist!” Are we like Zacchaeus or the rich ruler? ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Thirty First 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

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thurs: 7pm

Ballela Anniversaries

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

Sun 10: Joe Magee

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 3: Elizabeth Lennon

Sun 10: Geordie Gorman (Months Mind)

Offertory Promise Collection £797.25

Readers – Dromore

Sun 10: John McKeown

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 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 parish office of parishioners not buried in the parish to be included in this mass. The following is a list from our parish records of those who have died since Nov 2018: Kathleen McGregor, Mary Lavery, Philomena Walker, Patricia Poland, Kathleen Burns, Sean Darby, Catherine Timmons, Annette Prentice, Janina Ewa Szkaradek, Martin McAteer, Peter Finegan & George Gorman.

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.

Sunday 3rd Nov 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 32

£100	Mabel McCutcheon	122
£50	Deirdre Cunningham	035
£30	Michael Haslem	425
£20	John Downey	176

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 27th Oct: 5 14 20 21

No £10 winner's

Seller: Mick Doyle Jackpot £2000

Ballela Community Group

Next meeting Wednesday 6th November 7.30pm.

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.

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.

Night of Music

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is having a night of music in St Therese's Church Banbridge on **Sun 8th December** at 7.30pm. Singers are Malachi Cush, Liam Lawton & Karl McGuckin with special guests Fiona Flynn & Mary Queen of Peace Junior Choir. Tickets are £20 and can be purchased at Banbridge Parish office, Newry Parish office or by ringing 07855 802 011. The Irish Pilgrimage Trust has been taking young people with special needs to Lourdes at Easter for nearly 50 years and is run by volunteers. We are totally dependent on fundraising to operate.

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