

1ST DECEMBER 2019

Sunday Message

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



Our Gospel reading today is in some ways surprising: we are beginning the season of Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world as a baby, from his mother, Mary.

But the Jesus we encounter is an adult, warning his audience to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time. The title 'Son of Man' has overtones of the theme of judgment, which is also connected with that of the Day of the Lord.

We might note that Jesus talks about the flood purely as a natural event: he does not refer to it as a punishment for sin or wickedness. People are going about their everyday affairs, oblivious to the imminent danger which threatens them. The Gospel message for us is to look more deeply at our lives and to be prepared so that the Lord will find us alert, aware that he may appear at any time and ready to receive him. Many parables present this lesson: the coming of the Lord is a serious business, and we should take it seriously. The readings from Matthew which we will hear during Advent are anything but comfortable. ■

SAY

**Maranatha! Come,
Lord Jesus!**

(See Revelation 22:20)

LEARN

The biblical flood is a well-attested natural disaster in the ancient world.

The biblical story attributes the flood to God's judgment on human wickedness.

The First Sunday of Advent is the first day of the church's new year.

DO

Flooding today is often due to human mismanagement or exploitation of the natural world: register your concern about climate change to an appropriate person or authority.

REFLECT

If it were a crime to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? We sometimes see this question displayed on posters as a challenge to passers-by. We may think that we are living a good and proper life if we are honest in our dealings with other people, decent and well-mannered in our relations with them. No doubt this was how the people of the time of Noah felt. During Advent, we are invited to look beyond the surface of our daily lives and routine and to be more aware of Jesus.

We are asked to think of Christmas not just as something which happened a long time ago, but as the way that God reached out to us in the person of Jesus, and continues to do so. How would we feel if we knew that Jesus was coming in such a way to us today? What changes would we make in the way we live? The lesson of today's Gospel is that it should not make any difference at all: we should always be living and behaving as if the coming of Jesus as Son of Man were imminent, not out of fear, but because it has become natural to us as disciples.

The message of Christmas is that God was prepared to come into our world to invite us into friendship with God. We do not intentionally hurt our friends, and apologise as soon as we can if things go wrong between us. Advent is the time when we are challenged to wake up, to see the world with fresh eyes, and to appreciate the great gift which God has given us in the person, life and example of Jesus: then we will gladly live by the Gospel teachings. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's, Dromore All Saints, Ballela
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times : St Colman's

Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs: Liturgy of the word 9.30am

Tues No Mass. Mass : Fri: 9.30am

Sat: 10-11am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thurs: 7pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 1: Daniel & Teresa Doyle
John McCormac

Sun 8: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 1: None

Sun 8: James Murray

Offertory Promise Collection £919.08

Readers – Dromore

Sun 8: Caroline Rooney

St Mary's Primary School, Dechomet

Open Night on Tuesday 10th December 2019 from
6.30pm – 8.00pm. Christmas Plays on Tuesday 17th
December 2019 at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Trócaire Gifts Of Love Trócaire brochures are
available at the back of the church.

Family Advent craft evenings

We invite families to join us in **Ballela School at 6.00 pm** on the Sundays of Advent for prayer, reflection and crafts in preparation for Christmas. Activities for all the family as we make mangers – you will need shoe boxes and lots of card-board wrappings from your on-line deliveries!!! We commence on **1st December**.

SVP Christmas church door collection

Will take place on **Sun 8th Dec** in both churches.

N.I. Blood Transfusion Service

The next blood donation session will be held in the Cathedral Church Hall, Dromore on **Wed 4th Dec** 2pm-4pm & 5.15pm – 8pm.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be attended as follows:
Ballela – Tuesday 3rd & Dromore - Friday 6th.

Sunday 1st Dec 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 36

£100	Cathy Haslem	427
£50	Matthew McEvoy	420
£30	John Beggs	469
£20	Una Eadie	278

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 24th Nov: 6 11 16 22

£10 winner: Eimear Downey

Seller: Sean Burns Jackpot £2000

Ballela G.A.C AGM

Will take place on **Mon 16th Dec 7.30pm** in Ballela School.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Ballela Community Group are having their Christmas Coffee Morning on **Sun 8th Dec after 9.45 am Mass until 12 noon** in Ballela School. There will be delicious homemade scones, buns and treats for everyone and there will be a chance for the kids to visit Santa in his Grotto and receive a present. We also will have Christmas Craft's for children to take part in and Holly wreaths for sale. Admission is £2.50 per person.

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 Giving Tree

This Christmas St Vincent de Paul ask for your support with a Christmas Present Appeal by donating new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children and adults who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. The gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to those in need. How to take part? Take a tag from the tree in St Colman's Church, buy the gift and return it in a bag with the tag attached. Please return the gifts no later than **Sun 15th December**. Leave in the box at the back of St Colman's Church. Thank You SVP.

SVP Christmas cards are on sale at the back of the church suggested donation £2.50 per pack.

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