

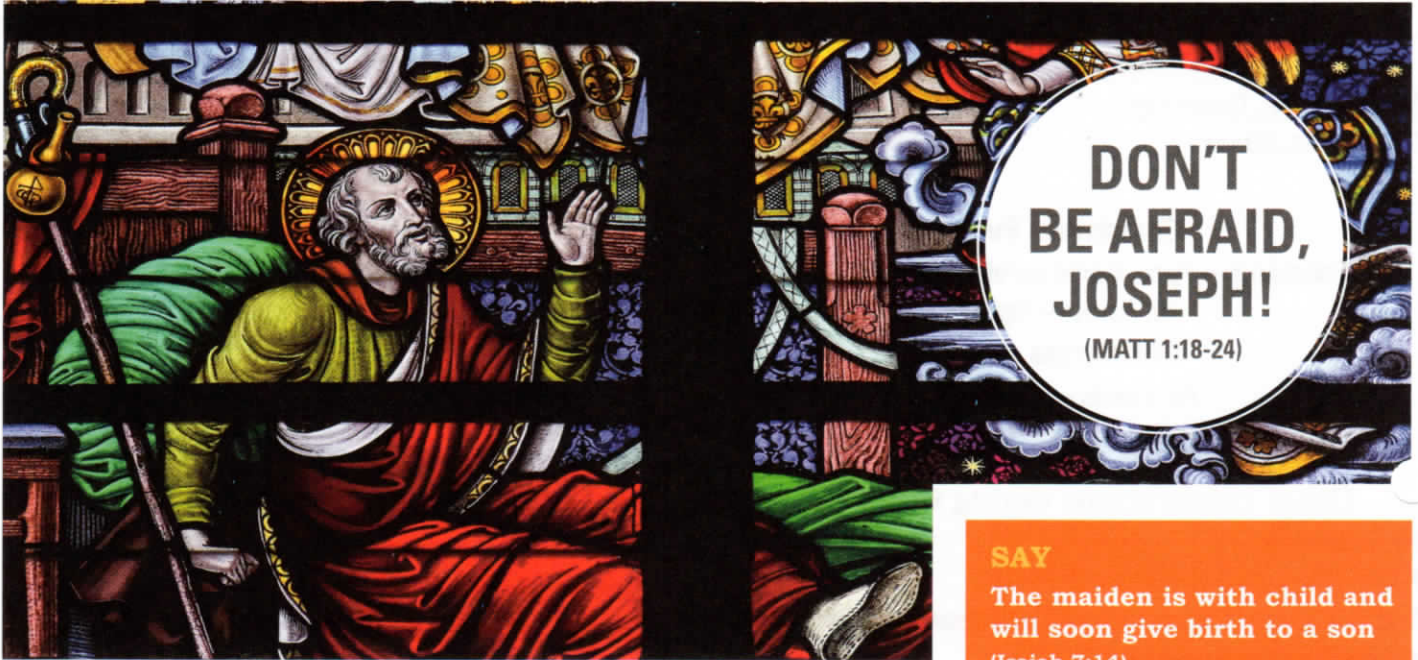
22 DECEMBER 2019

# Sunday Message

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 4



Stained glass window depicting the dream of St Joseph, in the Cathedral of St Rumbold in Mechelen, Belgium.

The main character in Matthew's first two chapters, the part of the Gospel often called the Birth or Infancy Narrative, is Joseph. It is to Joseph that the annunciation of the birth of Jesus is made, and Joseph is the focus of attention.

The text refers to Joseph as Son of David, and it is through Joseph that Jesus inherits the title and the promises made to that King of Israel by God through the prophet Nathan. This happens because Joseph agrees to become the legal father of Jesus, and by naming him he accepts him as his own son and the promise passes to Jesus.

Matthew presents Joseph as the model Israelite: he knows that the Law prescribes a severe penalty for his fiancée, Mary, who is pregnant and not by him. However, he is also a compassionate person and decides to resolve the situation privately and not cause her public disgrace. The evangelist casts Joseph in the mould of the Joseph of Genesis, the master of dreams, thus recalling the person who saved his family by bringing them to Egypt. The Gospel hero has a series of dreams in which God directs his actions and so brings Jesus eventually to Nazareth. ■

### SAY

The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son  
(Isaiah 7:14)

### LEARN

Joseph was the legal, not the biological father of Jesus.

It is through Joseph that Jesus is the son of David.

The figure of Joseph in Matthew's Gospel recalls the Joseph of Genesis (he of the "coat of many colours").

### DO

Try to find a statue or picture of the 'Sleeping Joseph': reflect on his call and then on your own.

### REFLECT

The role of Joseph has been greatly overshadowed by that of Mary, mainly due to later Christian piety. However, in Matthew's Gospel, he is the one who facilitates God's plan and who plays the major part in the story. It is through Joseph that Matthew introduces the theme which will run through his version of the story of Jesus, that of the Exodus. In himself, Jesus will relive the experience of Israel and will fulfil the meaning of that event, which we celebrate at the Easter Vigil.

We might ponder on a human level the

experience which Joseph underwent in our episode today. Being asked to bring up someone else's child just before your wedding would be a challenge for any man. It became customary to depict Joseph as almost elderly in comparison to Mary, but he is more likely to have been of a similar age to his betrothed.

The name which the angel instructs Joseph to give to Jesus is symbolic: nowhere in the Gospel is Jesus ever called *Emmanuel*. It means that whenever we think of Jesus, we should remember that in him, God is with us, and that at

the end of the Gospel, Jesus promises to be with his disciples until the end of time. God has chosen to work in the world through human beings. That is one of the lessons of the mystery which we call the Incarnation: like Joseph and Mary, we have our part to play in making God's plan a reality. We might remember that they had to give their free consent as well. We could keep in mind all those people who offer to adopt children and bring them up as their own: in this they have the example of Joseph who adopted Jesus as his own son. ■

## PARISH OF DROMORE

Rev Feidhlimidh Magennis Tel: 07702665123

Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

Parish website: [www.stcolmans.org](http://www.stcolmans.org)

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon

Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish email address: [office@stcolmans.org](mailto:office@stcolmans.org)

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### Sunday Mass Times

<u>St Colman's, Dromore</u>	<u>All Saints, Ballela</u>
Sunday 11.00am	Sunday 9.45am

#### **Christmas Eve**

St Colman's – 7pm, Carol service starts 6.40pm

All Saints – 9pm

#### **Christmas day**

All Saints – 9.45am

St Colman's – 11am

### **Other celebrations during the week**

St Colman's

Mon: Liturgy of the word 9.30am

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

#### **Recently Deceased**

Martha McCullough, Garvaghy Rd, Funeral 1.30pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. in Ballela.

#### **Ballela Anniversaries**

Sun 22: Harry O'Hare

Tues 24: Peter & Mary McConville

& The Curran Family

Andrew & Oliver McAleenan

Sun 29: None

#### **Dromore Anniversaries**

Sun 22: Frank McAnearney

John Aherne

Deceased members of The Rooney Family

Raymond Loughran, Silverbridge

Tues 24: Oliver McAleenan

Sun 29: None

#### **Offertory Promise Collection £977.03**

#### **Readers – Dromore**

Sun 29: Ciara Cunningham

#### **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.

#### **Whist**

Will be held Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec in St Colman's hall at 8.30pm.

### Sunday 22nd Dec 2019

#### **Parish Draw Winners Week 39**

£100	Desmond McAnearney	583
£50	Mary Doyle	337
£30	Vincent Cunningham	033
£20	Sean McCrory	130

#### **Ballela G.A.C. Lott**

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec: 3 11 14 21

No £10 winners Seller: John Doyle

Jackpot £2000

#### **Pilgrimages - The Camino and Lourdes**

Pilgrimages for young adults (18 to 30+)

**Lourdes** -12th to 17th May - Costs £610 cover flights, full board accommodation, transfers, insurance and Lourdes programme.

**Camino a Pilgrimage walk in Spain** - July 19th to 25th - cost approx. £480 include, flights, accommodation, insurance, transfers and walkers support. **Choose your pilgrimage** - either a great way to get to know likeminded people, travel and to grow in faith in a very new way.....to secure your place forward a deposit of £200 to the Diocesan Youth Office, 39 - 41 Hill Street, Newry, BT341AT. Cheque payable to the Diocese of Dromore Trust - Youth. For more information email [dromoreyd@btconnect.com](mailto:dromoreyd@btconnect.com) or phone Frances 028 30833898

#### **Armagh Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Fátima**

7<sup>th</sup> July for 7 nights led by Archbishop Eamon Martin. Cost £719 per person sharing: fully escorted pilgrimage, flights from Dublin to Lisbon, Full Board in Hotel Averida, complimentary travel Insurance, single room supplement £25 per night. Coach from selected locations to Dublin airport. For further details contact Maureen or Joe McLoughlin on 02890701606 or 07745093530.

#### **St Vincent de Paul Committee**

Would like to thank the Parishioners and friends from Dromore & Ballela on their kind generosity total raised from our Sunday collection £1296.75. From our Giving Tree 30 children and 40 adults received gifts and 47 pensioners received a token. Thank you for your continued support. We would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

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