



## THE WORD BECAME FLESH

(JOHN 1:1-18)

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the opening verses of the Fourth Gospel: it presents Jesus as the Word. The purpose of a word is to communicate, and Jesus is in himself the revelation of God.

What God wants to reveal is not a series of laws or teachings, but the Divine Self and to invite human beings into a relationship characterised by friendship. This way of understanding Jesus is different to that of the three Synoptic Gospels: here we are told about the existence of the Word with God before becoming flesh in the mystery we call the Incarnation. This is God reaching out to human beings with an invitation: Jesus presents people with this offer, and the Gospel story tells of the different responses which individuals make to it – and to him.

This way of understanding God is found in the Jewish Scriptures, where God reaches out through the feminine figure of Wisdom who existed with God before creation. Wisdom goes in search of disciples. She comes down from heaven to live among human beings, to teach them the things that are above until they can be described as friends of God: we can see Jesus acting in similar ways, and his self-awareness in John's Gospel is quite distinct from that presented by the other evangelists. ■

### SAY

The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us

(John 1:14)

### LEARN

The Gospel actually says "The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us."

Wisdom in the ancient world referred to the ability to achieve one's goal or purpose.

Wisdom is a feminine figure in the Bible: *Hokmah* in Hebrew and *Sophia* in Greek.

### DO

Think about the way you look after your body in terms of food, drink, exercise and the like: if you are not treating it properly in some way, do something about it.



### REFLECT

**W**e sometimes hear people talking about sins of the flesh, and usually they are referring to sexual behaviour. The apostle Paul also speaks about Christ as the wisdom of God, but he could never have said that the Word became flesh. When Paul uses the term 'flesh', he often means a force opposed to God, that weak part of our human nature which sin exploits to lead us away from God and from our better self. The writer of the Fourth Gospel has a different view in this matter. He sees flesh as that aspect of life contrasted with the divine, but which is basically good:

otherwise he could never have made this bold and astonishing claim that the Word became flesh, a true human being in every way.

There is a strand in Christian thought which denigrates our human body, our physical flesh: writers who share this point of view concentrate on the soul, and regard the body as the source of all evil, so to say. Hence the body should be punished and severely disciplined. But the doctrine of the Incarnation, literally the enfleshing of the Word of God, tells us that our complete human nature is

something radically good: after all, it is part of God's creation. We should therefore treat our bodies with respect. The focus of much Catholic moral teaching is often portrayed as being on a narrow, individualistic sexual area, the obsession of celibate male clergy. The wider moral and ethical teaching of the church is based on that of the Bible, which emphasises our social responsibilities in matters of justice and the right relationships which should exist in society. To fail in these is to commit sins of the flesh. ■



## PARISH OF DROMORE

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### Second Sunday of Christmas

#### Sunday Mass Times

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

#### Weekday Mass Times : St Colman's

**Wed, & Thur:** Liturgy of the word 9.30am

**Mon, Tues & Fri :** Mass 9.30am

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

#### Weekday Mass times: All Saints

**Mon:** 7.00pm

**Thurs :** 7.00pm

#### Fast of the Epiphany, Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### Mass Times

St Colman's – 9.30am

All Saints – 7.00pm

#### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 5:** James McCusker

**Sun 12:** Kathieen McGreggor

#### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 5:** James McEvoy

Deceased members of The Keenan family

Francis Hamilton

Sam, Lily & Sam Jnr Clarke

**Sun 12:** Hugh Eadie

#### Offertory Promise Collection £946.81

#### Readers – Dromore

**Sun 12:** Shauna McNamara

#### St Colman's College Open Day

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Jan from 10am – 1pm. Principal's Address  
11am & 12 noon.

#### Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

committee The Dromore diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will celebrate its 50th pilgrimage in 2020, if you are interested in travelling as an assisted pilgrim or pilgrim please contact any member of the parish committee. The pilgrim fare will cost £660. If you would like to nominate a member of the parish to travel as an assisted pilgrim please forward the name to any committee member. Please do not nominate someone without first asking them if they would like to go.

Next Committee meeting **Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan** in Ballela school 8.30pm.

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 41

£100	Louis Boyle	025-
£50	Jeanette Adair	148
£30	John Rooney	002
£20	Margaret McCann	451

#### Ballela G.A.C. Lotto

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec: 2 5 9 18**

£10 winner Sean Burns

Seller Mick Doyle

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec: 3 4 6 15**

No £10 winners

Seller: Anglers Rest

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.

#### The Abbey Grammar School Open Day

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Jan from 10am – 12.30pm.

#### Tai Chi Classes

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.30am in Dromore hall.

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