

19 JANUARY 2020

Sunday Message

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



SAY

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world

(John 1:29)

LEARN

The expression 'Lamb of God' can refer to the Passover lamb of the Exodus story.

It can also allude to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah.

The Servant takes the guilt of the sinful people upon himself and suffers on their behalf.

DO

Look at the host when the priest lifts it up before Communion: renew your belief that Jesus is present in the consecrated bread and wine.



Today, we begin our series of Gospel extracts in which we consider, week by week, the ministry and teachings of Jesus: As usual, the first main character we encounter is John the Baptist.

Although the readings throughout the year will be taken from the Gospel according to Matthew, the current episode comes from the Fourth Gospel, that according to John. The baptism of Jesus is not reported or described as in the other three versions, but it seems to be presumed. The Baptist is the inspired witness to Jesus and sets the scene for us to understand better who Jesus is and what his mission entails. John's knowledge of Jesus comes from revelation, from God, and it is John who sees the Spirit in the form of a dove coming down from heaven and resting on Jesus, a detail we find in the other accounts of his baptism.

John tells us that Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: he brings the Holy Spirit; he is the Chosen One (or the Son) of God. We might note that the Baptist talks about the sin (singular) of the world. He is not thinking of petty transgressions or the laundry-list of penitents in the past: the sin of the world is a much more serious affair, and refers to an underlying sinful condition, which manifests itself in attitudes and actions. Jesus' baptism will be more powerful than that of John, as Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit. Thus the scene is set for the rest of our Gospel readings throughout the year. ■

REFLECT

One of the themes running through the Fourth Gospel is that of replacement: Jesus replaces in himself the main institutions of Judaism, such as the Temple in Jerusalem, and the feasts such as Passover. Jesus is the Lamb of God, the means by which God enters human history and offers reconciliation with himself.

We might consider today this expression of God. Throughout the Bible, God is the one who takes the initiative in reaching

out to us, human beings. God reveals: God is not discovered. John the Baptist is a messenger, sent by God, as the evangelist tells us. Jesus himself is the Word of God become flesh, God's final and most direct way of communicating with human beings. The bond which God chooses to form with us is not a contract but a covenant of life and love, a relationship so close that it can be used to illustrate and explain the marriage bond.

The Gospel readings are not extracts from a biography of Jesus: they are the living Word of God addressed to us today, inviting us to reflect on our own relationship with God which was expressed and sealed, not by the blood of sacrifice but by the water of baptism. Is this difficult to believe? Is it too good to be true? To be God's servant, perhaps, but God's friend? What do you think? ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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

All Saints

Thurs : 7.00pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 19: Martha McCullough (Months Mind)
Sun 26: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 19: Hugh McGrath, Joe Topley
Kathleen McDonnell
Tues 21: Ann Cappa (Months Mind) Mass 7.30pm
celebrant, Fr Brendan McConvery
Sun 26: Wennie Moreland, Rosaleen McGreevy
John & Mary Burns

Offertory Promise Collection £1042.79

Readers – Dromore

Sun 26: Siobhan McArdle

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sat 18th to Sun 25th January

Catholic Schools Week

26th January to 2nd February

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes committee

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

Whist

Whist will take place on **Sun 19th Jan** at 8.30 in St Colman's hall Dromore. Ladies to supply pastry:
Helen Downey & Bronagh Brady.

Sunday 19th Jan 2020

Parish Draw Winners Week 43

£100	Brian McArdle	390
£50	Christopher Moreland	449
£30	Seamus Lavery	551
£20	Stephen Kelly	024

Ballela G.A.C. Lotto

This week's Lotto: 3 5 22 24

No £10 winners Seller: Sean Burns
Jackpot £2000

Registration Breakfast - in All Saints school on Sun 26th Jan 10.30-12.30.

Dinner dance - 8th Feb in Anglers Rest.

Ballela Community Group

AGM will take place on **Wed 22nd Jan** at 7.30pm. New members are welcome.

Young Adults - 18 - 30 years old

You are invited to join others for a buffet breakfast on **Sunday 23rd February at 11 am in Newry Parish Centre**. Are you interesting in a Pilgrimage, doing something to make a difference? Perhaps you are very involved in your parish or a keen volunteer in your community, youth club, GAA etc. Maybe you are looking to getting involved or simply have questions about faith or would like to meet other likeminded people. If one of the above is you then please come along and join us... this is for you. Please forward your name to dromoreyd@btconnect.com or phone Frances 028 30833898

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

24th February 2020. £399.00 per person sharing. Price includes return bus transfer from Banbridge to Knock, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with breakfast lunch and dinner (full board). All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £40. Contact Patricia on 07740 175557 Or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

Do This In Memory

Will take place in both churches on **Sun 26th Jan**.
Tea and Chat will take place on **Sun 26th Jan** in St Colman's hall Dromore after 11am Mass.

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