



Today's Gospel extract sets the scene for Jesus' ministry in Galilee. The introduction has been his baptism, when God revealed him as God's beloved Son, so we have been given a glimpse of Jesus' true identity.

John the Baptist leaves the Gospel narrative: we are told that he has been arrested or handed over, as Jesus will be in his turn. Matthew underlines the close connection between the two by presenting Jesus' message as identical to that of the Baptist. Jesus' moving to the town of Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Galilee is guided by God's will, as shown by the quotation from the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus calls his first disciples. This is unusual, because normally a person would decide to become a disciple of a particular rabbi and join that teacher's circle. Here Jesus invites Peter, Andrew, James and John, who, except for Andrew, will be privileged witnesses to important events in the life of their Master. It is testimony to the human personality and attractiveness of Jesus that they spontaneously leave their secure and presumably prosperous employment and follow someone whom they have apparently just met.

Using Capernaum as his base, Jesus embarks on a preaching tour of the local synagogues, illustrating the arrival of the Kingdom of God by curing illnesses of all kinds. Thus begins his ministry in Galilee, the northern region of the land of Israel. ■

## REFLECT

Matthew tells us that the first four disciples had no hesitation in leaving what was to them safe, secure and familiar in order to respond wholeheartedly to Jesus. The purpose of the church is to perpetuate the presence of Jesus Christ in the world. The church is the people of God, the disciples of Jesus. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is presented as the model of the church, which brings forth new disciples, new brothers and sisters for Jesus.

In many parts of the world, the Catholic Church is losing members, sometimes through people giving up the practice of the faith for a variety of reasons. But many people leave to join other Christian bodies and very often the reason has nothing to do with theology but with community and a sense of belonging to a group which celebrates its faith with joy and open conviction. Perhaps the past emphasis on individual piety and practice has left a deeper and more lasting mark than we realise. The attitude that we have to go to Mass can lead to people feeling that doing the minimum is sufficient to keep on the right side of God – or of the church authorities. If this is the thinking of a large number of the congregation, then this will create an atmosphere which visitors pick up very quickly.

Perhaps in our parish community we need to reflect more on the human attractiveness of Jesus and ask ourselves whether our kind of worship and relationships with one another truly present the Master whose disciples we claim to be. ■

## DO

Find a map of the Holy Land at the time of Jesus: there is probably one at the back of the Bible you use. When a town or region is mentioned in the Sunday readings, look it up on your map. This will help you to understand better the background to the ministry of Jesus.



Fragment of the oldest floor mosaic map of the Holy Land - the Holy City Jerusalem

## LEARN

The "shadow of death" means deep, complete darkness.

Normally, disciples would choose the rabbi whose teachings they wished to follow: the rabbi did not seek out disciples.

In the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus makes one journey to Jerusalem, unlike the version of John which presents several visits.

## SAY

The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2)

## PARISH OF DROMORE

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### Third 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  
Confessions available during Exposition on Saturday  
All Saints

Masses : 7.00pm

#### Catholic Schools Week

26<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Mass for St Colman's PS on Tuesday 9.30am in St  
Colman's Church, Dromore – all welcome

#### Feasts over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February – St Brigid's Day  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Candlemas Day  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Feast of St Blaise  
St Brigid's crosses and Candles will be blessed at the  
Sunday masses: if you wish to have crosses or  
candles blessed please leave them at the church  
doors before mass. The Blessing of the Throats will  
take place after each Sunday mass. Blessed candles  
can be purchased after mass.

#### Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 26: None

Sun 2: None

#### Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 26: Wennie Moreland, Rosaleen McGreevy  
John & Mary Burns, John Gribbin  
Gwendoline Finegan

Sun 2: Joe & Annie Mulgrew; John Finegan

#### Offertory Promise Collection £809.99

#### Readers – Dromore

Sun 2: Brendan McCann

#### Collectors Ballela - February

Bernard Cosgrave & Willie Doyle

#### Do This In Memory

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

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 44

£100 Hugh Doyle (Kilkinamurry)	391
£50 Brooker Girls	372
£30 Bill O'Loughlin	067
£20 Aileen Gracey ( Massvale)	071

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

This week's Lotto: 1 2 8 13

No £10 winners Seller: John Doyle

Jackpot £2000

Registration Breakfast - in All Saints school on Sun  
26<sup>th</sup> Jan 10.30-12.30.

Dinner dance - 8th Feb in Anglers Rest.

#### Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com). Knock  
Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust  
Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

#### Walk the Camino de Santiago for your local

Hospice The Southern Area Hospice is delighted to  
announce that they will be taking a group of walkers from  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020. If you would like to join us on this  
journey please phone Amy in Fundraising on  
(028)30251333 or email  
[mckeowna@southernareahospiceservices.org](mailto:mckeowna@southernareahospiceservices.org) or come  
along to our information night in Hospice on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>  
January at 7pm.

#### 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.

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