

A NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW

(MATT 5:13-16)



Matthew is writing for a community of mainly Jewish Christians: he therefore presents Jesus and his teachings clearly against the background of their Jewish tradition.

Our Gospel reading for this Sunday comes from the section known as the Sermon on the Mount. The only mountain in Galilee worthy of the name is Tabor, and that is certainly not the precise geographical location of Jesus' preaching. The mountain which Matthew mentions is symbolic; it is meant to remind us of Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments from the Lord. Jesus has already told his disciples that he has come to fulfil, rather than abolish, the Law of Moses, so he is offering a new interpretation of the Torah and the values which it enshrines.

Today, Jesus focuses on the kind of person a true disciple will be and uses the examples of salt and light, which we find elsewhere in the Gospel tradition. Both have the underlying idea of service to others. Salt is used in cooking or preserving food and disappears in order to fulfil its function. Jesus also describes the disciples as light of the world, which dispels the darkness of people's lives. Hence one kind of service is hidden, unseen: the other is public and direct, at least in its effects. Both are necessary. ■

SAY

Preach the Gospel: if necessary, use words

(attributed to St Francis of Assisi)

LEARN

The word salary comes from the Latin word *sal*, which means salt.

For Matthew, a mountain is a place of revelation.

Jesus is not so much the bringer of a New Law as the teacher of a new interpretation of the Torah: the word *Torah* means Law, but rather in the sense of teaching, instruction than legal precepts.

DO

Pour a little salt into your hand. Reflect on the uses to which you put it. Imagine how you can have a similar effect on the people among whom you live and work.



REFLECT

Jesus' comment about salt becoming tasteless may strike us as puzzling.

We know that salt does not go stale. It is something essential to human health, and in the Roman world it was also valuable; people were often paid in salt. However, if salt becomes contaminated with other substances, then its power is lessened and even lost, so it has no use or value any longer. Perhaps the meaning of this warning is similar to that of the seed among the thorns which we find in other places in the parables of Jesus. We can become so caught up with our daily cares and anxieties that our awareness of Jesus and his place in our lives is diminished. Or we make compromises with our Christian values and ideals so that our moral sense becomes numb and we

find that we do not have the energy to live out our Gospel ideals in our everyday situations. But we should not push the comparison too far: salt may indeed arrive at a point where all we can usefully do is to throw it out; whereas the disciple can always recover her or his vision and set about living more faithfully and enthusiastically their discipleship and commitment to Jesus.

The result of our service of others should be that they give praise to our Father in heaven. There should always be an element of proclaiming our faith in Jesus, not so much by what we say, but by the kind of people we are. That is what Jesus is saying by describing his disciples as salt of the earth and light of the world. He is talking about us. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Fifth 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

No mass on Tuesday

Fri : Mass 9.30am

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

All Saints

Thurs : 7.00pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 9: Eddie, Elizabeth & June McGrath
John Fegan

Sun16: John McAnarney
Barney McCusker
Henry McGrath

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 9: Margaret Walsh and deceased members
Of the Walsh & Hannigan Family.
Breen Morgan
Arthur & Joy Brooker

Sun 16: Patrick Murphy
Rita Keenan (Months Mind)
Gerard Keenan

Confertory Promise Collection £1028.59

Readers – Dromore

Sun 16: Katie Rice

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages April –

Oct 2020 7 night stay and airport shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for 266 Euros per person sharing. Book any flight – any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel: 014434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Friends of St Colman's P.S

Are running a **Cash For Clobber** collection. This is an excellent opportunity to recycle and raise funds. We are looking for good quality clothing for re-wear as well as paired shoes, hats, scarves, bed linen, curtains. Towels. Belts and handbags. Please leave into school between 26th & 28th February.

Sunday 9th Feb 2020

Parish Draw Winners Week 46

£100 Kathleen McPolin	561
£50 Bronagh Cosgrave	329
£30 Lois Doyle	345
£20 Patricia Doherty	272

Ballela G.A.C.

Lotto numbers: 8 11 17 20

£10 winner: Sean Burns

Seller Sean Burns

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.

Annadone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee

Coffee Morning and Annual Grand Draw

Will take place on **Sun 16th Feb** in Annadone hall after 10am Mass in Annadone. Prizes for Draw are:
1st : £200 2nd : £100 3rd : Food Hamper
4th : Meal Voucher 5th : £25
6th : Bottle of Whisky.

Tickets £1 each available from committee members.

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 committee. The pilgrim fare will cost £660. If nominating 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 be held on **Sun 16th Feb** at 8.30pm in St Colman's Hall, Dromore. Ladies to supply pastry: Mona McGreevy & Isabel Cunningham.

St Vincent de Paul

New members urgently required, especial young people and female volunteers. Contact any member.

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