



**TACKLE
THE ROOT,
NOT THE
SYMPTOM!**

(MATT 5:17-37)

The Hebrew handwritten Torah on a synagogue altar in Jerusalem

The passage in today's Gospel reading is often interpreted as Jesus' teaching being superior to the Law of Moses, and therefore Christian Gospel love being higher than Jewish legalism.

This is, in fact, a distortion of Matthew's presentation, in which Jesus says that he has not come to abolish but to fulfil the Law. The Torah is the revelation of God's will, and to observe it is to respond in covenant devotion to God: it is not a burden to be carried with fatalistic resignation.

There were many schools of thought about how the Torah could be lived out, and Jesus' teaching is more in line with the more liberal rabbis, except for his teaching on divorce. (It is not possible to give a definitive interpretation of what is called the exception clause, that is, except for the case of fornication.) Jesus urges his hearers to look at their inward emotions and not allow negative feelings to build up until they manifest themselves in action: lust can lead to adultery, anger to murder. It is not a question of Jesus bringing a new law or morality: he is interpreting the Torah commandments in a truly radical fashion, tackling the roots of sinful action.

The sayings about self-mutilation are not meant to be taken literally but to stress the urgency of taking seriously the source of sin: this is not located in the physical body, but in the mind. ■

SAY

**Train me to observe
your law, to keep it with
my heart**

(Psalm 118:34)

LEARN

Jesus' teaching on divorce is (unusually) closer to the strict interpretation of the Rabbi Shammai.

His interpretation of the Torah is normally nearer to that of the more liberal Rabbi Hillel.

In every period, there were two main teachers of the Torah, one strict, the other less so.

DO

Think about Jesus' teaching on being reconciled with someone before coming to worship God. If this teaching applies to you, go and do something about it.

REFLECT

The Law of Moses which we find in the Bible bears the hallmarks of development and adjustment to different situations due to the changes in Israelite society. The Pharisees in the synagogues of Jesus' time sought to interpret the Torah in such a way that the values it proposed could be put into practice in people's daily lives. There were different views on the subject, some strict, others more accommodating, but there was no one, official line which everyone was expected to follow in the name of 'orthodoxy'.

One of the frequent complaints about politicians and other public figures is that people find it hard to believe what they say. Jesus tells us today that we should be straightforward and honest in our dealings with others. Swearing by anything as a guarantee of our truthfulness is to rely on an external object, whereas our own personal integrity should be sufficient. That is the message coming through the various diverse sections of today's Gospel.

It might also be helpful to reflect that the Judaism of the time of Jesus was broad

enough to accommodate all shades of opinion. One of the distressing aspects of discourse in the church (and beyond) is the lack of charity and the attributing of bad faith to people with whom there is disagreement. Jesus was not condemned by people of differing theological opinions, but by conservative religious authority figures who interpreted the Law literally, accepted no development of understanding and were mainly interested in preserving their political position. In essential matters, unity; in uncertain matters, liberty; in all matters, charity. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

Rev Feidhlimidh Magennis Tel: 07702665123
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

Parish website: www.stcolmans.org
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon
Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Sixth 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

Allela Anniversaries

Sun16: John McAnarney
Barney McCusker
Henry McGrath

Sun 23: none

Thurs 27: Deceased members of Bingham family

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 16: Patrick Murphy
Rita Keenan (Months Mind)
Gerard Keenan
Geraldine O'Loughlin

Sun 23: none

Offertory Promise Collection £1028.59

Readers – Dromore

Sun 16: Katie Rice

SNI Recruitment

Archbishop Eamon Martin wishes to draw the attention of the Catholic community to the current PSNI recruitment campaign which runs until 25 February - information is available on website joinpsni.co.uk He says: "I encourage the very best of our young people to seriously consider a career in the police. Help to shape the future of policing here and serve your community with generosity, concern, respect and courage".

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 16th Feb 2020

Parish Draw Winners Week 47

£100 Eamon Rooney	378
£50 Dominic McCusker	380
£30 Sinead Lennon	286
£20 Mary Thornton	452

Unfortunately the number of members of the Parish Draw has fallen over the last few years and as a result the Parish Finance Committee has undertaken a review of the Draw. It has looked at the cost of membership of draws in other Parishes and also the prize money paid out. It has agreed that the new Parish Draw, which commences on 7 March 2020, will be conducted as follows:

Cost	No change. The cost will remain at £1 per week
Weekly Prizes	Each week the prizes will be £100 & £50
Ten weekly	Every tenth week the prizes will be £500 & £250

New members are very welcome and if you would like to join the Parish Draw please contact Mary Burns on 07917517520 or complete one of the forms at the back of the church and leave it in the collection box or the Parochial House.

Ballela G.A.C.

Lotto: 1 2 4 14. No winners, Seller: Sean Burns
2 7 17 18. £10 winners: Mick Doyle & Kathleen Doyle. Seller Mick Doyle. Jackpot £2000.

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee 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 cost is £660. If nominating a parishioner to travel as an assisted pilgrim, forward the name to any committee member. 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 This In Memory

Sunday 23rd February in both churches

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