

23 FEBRUARY 2020

# Sunday Message

7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



**ONLY AN EYE  
FOR AN EYE!**

(MATT 5:38-48)

A depiction of the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew continues his presentation of the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The teaching about an eye for an eye is often held up as illustrating the superiority of the Gospel over the supposed savagery of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament).

However, the law of retaliation, as it is known, was, in fact, an attempt to limit violence and to prevent fairly minor incidents escalating into full-blown vendettas. The text really means only an eye for an eye: the punishment had to be in proportion to the offence or injury. Jesus then goes on to advocate meeting any kind of vicious treatment with goodness.

Jesus also expands the meaning of one's neighbour. In some quarters, this term was understood to apply only to members of one's family or tribe and so a person's responsibilities extended no further than that. But as in much of his teaching, especially in the parables, Jesus is challenging his disciples to look at the world as God does. God's blessings in nature are not restricted to any privileged group or withheld from the apparently undeserving. God's attitude should be the standard for the disciples of Jesus: we are to be perfect, like our Heavenly Father, in God's concern for all people. ■

## LEARN

The doctrine of an eye for an eye is known as the *Lex talionis*, or the law of retaliation.

It actually means only an eye for an eye: revenge has to be in proportion to the offence.

It was developed to restrict the spread of violence and the practice of vendetta.

## SAY

**The Lord is compassion  
and love, slow to anger  
and rich in mercy**

(Psalm 102:8)

## REFLECT

There are perhaps few passages in the Gospel which are more challenging than this one. On the one hand, we have the example of the Hindu Mahatma Gandhi who personified this teaching of Jesus and showed what can be achieved by a policy of nonviolence. We have the figure of Archbishop Oscar Romero who was murdered after calling on the army of his country to stop the oppression. On the other, arguments rage over how to oppose injustice on the national and international scene. It is all too clear that there is no agreement on how to apply this teaching of Jesus about the nonviolent response and attitude to people whom we regard as hostile to us.

But the complexity of the wider question does not mean that we can ignore Jesus' teaching for our own personal lives. Even if we can only decide that it means treating everyone else with respect simply because they are human beings like ourselves, that would be a start. We could also examine ourselves and see if we are bearing grudges and waiting for the opportunity to get our own back over some slight or insult (real or imagined). At the very least, we might discover that we feel better in ourselves if we forgive those others and lay down the burden of anger and resentment which we have been carrying around. ■

## DO

Note from the news bulletins and papers how much war and strife is due to people bearing grudges and refusing to talk to each other. Resolve not to add to the hatred and ill-feeling in the world.



## PARISH OF DROMORE

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

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

Parish website: [www.stcolmans.org](http://www.stcolmans.org)  
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Parish email address: [office@stcolmans.org](mailto:office@stcolmans.org)  
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

### Seventh 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

**Wed:** Mass 6.00 pm

**Fri:** Stations of the Cross following 9.30 mass

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

##### All Saints

**Wed:** Liturgy of the Word 7.00 pm

**Thurs :** 7.00pm

#### Ash Wednesday

To mark the beginning of Lent, Ashes will be distributed at the Liturgies of the Word (9.30 am in Dromore, 7.00 pm in Ballela) and at Mass in Dromore at 6.00 pm.

Trocaire boxes are available at the doors of the church. Please take one for each household.

#### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 23:** none

**Thurs 27:** Deceased members of Bingham family

**Sun 1:** Mary Magee

#### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 23:** none

**Sun 1:** William, Margaret & Sean Gribben

#### Offertory Promise Collection £1112.79

#### Readers – Dromore

**Sun 1:** Caroline Rooney

#### 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 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Pope John Paul II Awards

The Award Ceremony will take place on Wednesday March 11th @ 7.30 pm in St Teresa's Church, Banbridge. This is a great achievement, for our young people, their families, parishes and schools. We hope that all are able to attend and receive their Award.

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2020

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 48

£100	May Magee	317
£50	Theresa McKay	288
£30	Mary Burns	023
£20	Anne Marie McCrory	134

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	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: 5 9 12 15.** No winners, Seller: Mick Doyle  
Next week's Jackpot £2400.

#### St Vincent de Paul

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

#### Do This In Memory

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in both churches

#### Bingo

Friends of St Colman's P.S. are running a bingo night on **Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March** from 6pm until 9pm in St Colman's Hall Dromore to raise funds for outdoor play equipment. Your support is greatly appreciated.

#### T'ai Chi Classes

Start on **Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at 9.30am** in St Colman's hall, Dromore. Block of 6 classes £36 (Concessions £24)

For further details email Ann Donnelly at:

[taichiclass@maill.com](mailto:taichiclass@maill.com)

#### Tea & Chat

Will be held in St Colman's Hall, Dromore after 11am mass today Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb

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