

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



**LENT IS
A JOYFUL
SEASON!**

(MATT 4:1-11)

At his baptism, which occurs immediately before our Gospel passage today, Jesus is revealed publicly as the Son of God.

The question now is: how does Jesus understand being the Son of God? What sort of Messiah will he be: the kind that many people expect and hope for, the military liberator of their nation, or the one whom God intends him to be? The devil presents three ways in which Jesus could misuse his power and take a short-cut to being acclaimed as the Messiah: he could change stones into bread and feed not just himself but his followers; he could perform some supernatural feat and acquire an enthusiastic following; or he could seek political influence to establish the Kingdom of God. But as Jesus makes clear to Peter – when he later tries to deflect Jesus from the path God has traced out for him, and Jesus addresses him also with “Begone, Satan!” – the true sign that Jesus is the Son of God is the cross. ■

LEARN

The expression ‘the temptations of Jesus’ is better understood as the testing of Jesus as the Son of God.

The devil is trying to deflect Jesus from his true path, which will lead to Calvary.

Peter will do the same: that is why Jesus says to him, in Mark’s account, “Begone, Satan”, because the way you think is not God’s way but human thinking!

DO

When you carry out the penance you have chosen for Lent, think of the love of God for you: decide how you can best respond to that love each day.



REFLECT

Many people approach Lent much as they would any endurance test: can I give up something I like for six weeks? If we reach Easter successfully, then we feel a sense of achievement. If we do not, then we may feel a failure and be disappointed. The problem with this approach is that it is all about ourselves. Our penance, whatever it may be, is supposed to remind us about God, and what God has done for us in sending Jesus.

The idea underlying fasting is that the less the body has to do, the more heightened is our spiritual awareness. We should be able to concentrate more easily on thinking and praying. This can be an uncomfortable experience: we can be faced with questions about ourselves that we would rather not answer. In Lent we are asked to think about what God has done for us and how we are responding to his love. None of us responds perfectly, and we are being challenged to do something about those areas in our lives where we are lacking. No wonder that we are tempted to give up and indulge in comfort-eating or some other distraction to take our minds off our relationship with God and how we are trying to live up to our Christian calling.

The church speaks about Lent as a joyful season: perhaps if we thought about it in this way, we might find it a more positive experience. Jesus’ answers to the devil are not just smart rejoinders: they are quotations from the book of Deuteronomy: this is concerned with the relationship between God and the people of Israel, which we call the covenant. Israel was put to the test in the Exodus wilderness journey and failed: Jesus undergoes similar testing and passes by being faithful to the word of God. In this, he is our example. ■

SAY

**Lent is a joyful
season**

PARISH OF DROMORE

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First Sunday of lent

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

Fri: Stations of the Cross following 9.30 mass

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

All Saints

Thurs : 7.00pm

Procaire boxes

Are available at the doors of the church. Please take one for each household.

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 1: Mary Magee

Sun 8: Patrick, Mary Rose & Willie Doyle
Mary & Patrick Jnr Doyle

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 1: William, Margaret & Sean Gribben
Jim McDonald (Months Mind)

Sun 8: Mary Verhoeven & Bernadette Bradley
Kathleen Aherne
Mary McKeown

Offertory Promise Collection £1010.45

Readers – Dromore

Sun 8: Eibhlin Scott

Pope John Paul II Awards

The Award Ceremony will take place on Wed March 11th at 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.

Women's World Day Of Prayer

Will take place on Fri 6th March at 8pm in The First Presbyterian (Non- Subscribing) Church, Rampart Street, Dromore. Everyone welcome.

Sick Visits

The sick will be visited on the following days:

Tuesday – Dromore Wednesday – Ballela

Collectors – All Saints – March

Pat Rooney & James O'Rourke

Sunday 1st March 2020

Parish Draw Winners Week 49

£100	Liam Maginess	060
£50	Moran Thompson	133
£30	Lelia Hamilton	140
£20	John Beggs	469

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: 4 15 18 24. £10 winner Mick Doyle,
Seller: Sean Burn Next week's Jackpot £2450.

St Vincent de Paul

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

Bingo

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

Dromore, Ballela and Annaclone Lourdes

Committee Annual draw result as follows:

1st Mandy Curran	2nd Leo McGreevy
3rd Ellie Doody	4th David McBride
5th Noel McAleenan	6th Joe Farrell

We would like to thank everyone for their support for our recent coffee morning in Annaclone. Next meeting is Monday 2nd March at 8pm in Ballela.

Candle of Atonement

To mark the Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse (Fri 28th Feb), the candle has been re-lit in St Colman's. Please say a prayer for victims.

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