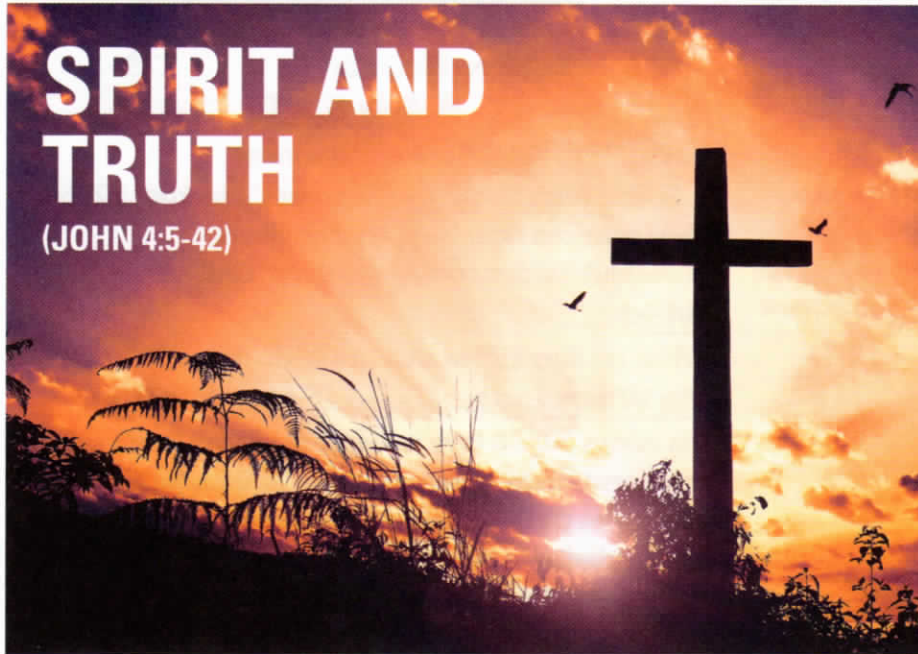


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 3



SPIRIT AND TRUTH

(JOHN 4:5-42)

The characters who appear with Jesus in the Fourth Gospel represent different kinds of persons and different reactions to Jesus.

In today's extract from the Gospel according to John, we meet the familiar figure of the Samaritan woman at the well. She is, first and foremost, a woman. She belongs to a group of people, the Samaritans, whom the Jewish people regarded as not being members of the people of Israel, no matter what their claims about their origins: their rival sanctuary to Jerusalem had been destroyed by the warrior Jewish high priest roughly 150 years earlier. We find traces of the hostility of the Samaritans towards Jewish pilgrims from Galilee in the Gospel accounts.

Yet here, Jesus takes the initiative in speaking to this woman, much to her surprise. As they talk, her understanding of who Jesus might be develops: she refers to him as a Jew, then as a prophet, and ends up wondering if he might be the Messiah/Christ. Although she does not come to believe in Jesus herself, her wondering about him to the townspeople leads them to believe in Jesus. She is thus the catalyst for their putting their faith in Jesus, not on her word, as hearsay is not enough, but because they have experienced him for themselves. ■

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Consider using the rest of Lent to decide whether or not you really want to renew your baptismal promises.



LEARN

The Jews held that the Samaritans were settlers imposed by the Assyrian conquerors in place of the Israelite population of the Northern Kingdom after the defeat in 722 BCE.

The Samaritans claimed that they were true Israelites left behind after the deportation.

The Samaritans built a rival temple on Mount Gerizim: this was destroyed by the high priest, John Hyrcanus, in 129 BCE.

REFLECT

Today, and on the next two Sundays, we hear a long reading from the Fourth Gospel. These extracts are given for us to reflect upon as we approach Easter, when new members will be added to our community as disciples of Jesus.

For John the evangelist, faith is not something we possess, but something we do. It is also a decision. Many 'cradle Catholics' are somewhat envious of converts: they feel that they would like to have had the chance really to decide for themselves, rather than have been baptised as infants and brought up in the faith without having to make their own mind up and say for themselves, "Yes, Lord, I believe." Somehow, renewing their baptismal promises is not quite the same. One of the reasons people leave the church is because they never truly believed to begin with: the mere fact of being baptised does not confer faith. Baptism is (ideally) the external sign that we have made our own decision. We may have difficulties with certain aspects of our faith, but the essential point is that we have a real, personal relationship with Jesus, which must develop as we ourselves grow, otherwise it will wither and die. These three Gospel extracts illustrate for us how a person's faith develops through questioning.

The woman tries to engage Jesus on details in the differences between their two traditions, but Jesus brushes these aside. Worship in spirit and truth, that is, worshipping God with one's whole life, is what true, authentic faith means: questions of place and ritual are secondary. Quarrels about liturgy and the like can be a useful distraction from the deeper questions of faith. ■

SAY

**Lord, I believe:
help my unbelief!**

(Mark 9:24)

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Third 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
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

Patricks Day

Due to the concerns over the Coronavirus, masses for St Patrick's Day are cancelled.

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 15: Arthur & Alice Burns
Sun 22: James Burns
Jimmy Devlin

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 15: Laurence McDonald
Sun 22: Philomena Walker
Patsy McGreevy

Offertory Promise Collection £1411.08

Readers – Dromore

Sun 22: Michaela Zigashane

Recently Baptised

Malian John Taylor

Lenten Day Retreat

Journeying with the Word of God in Lent, Saturday
21st March, 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. in Lectio Centre,
35-37 Dominic St, Newry. Led by Fr. Joseph Ralph OP
Concluding with the Celebration of Eucharist.
Suggested Donation £15.00 (Deposit Secures Places)
Light Lunch Provided. To book please contact: 028
30262178

Offertory Promise Boxes

New envelopes are now available at the back of the church, please lift your box

Do This in Memory

Due to the concerns over the Coronavirus, the Do This In Memory programme is temporarily suspended. There will be no DTIM mass on Sunday 22nd March.

Sunday 15th March 2020

Parish Draw Winners Week 1

£100 Andres Woolsey 188
£50 Kathleen McGrath 178

Ballela G.A.C.

Lotto: 3 10 18 20 No £10 winner

Seller: Mick Doyle Next week's Jackpot £2550.

The Lotto can now be played online at
www.klubfunder.com/dubballela_GAC

Whist

Whist on Sun 15th March has been cancelled.

Via Wings Ladies Day -21st March 2020

Via Wings would love to welcome some lady representatives from our Parish to their ladies day. The event runs from 10am – 4.30pm and a hot lunch is provided. We have been given two complimentary tickets and these will be given to the first ladies who call to collect them from the parochial House (Mon, Wed or Fri between 10am & 1.30pm). Anyone else wishing to attend can purchase tickets at £20 each and they are available from the Wings 'N' Things shop. For more information please see the poster on the notice board at the back of St Colman's church.

Coronavirus response

Archbishop Eamon Martin has issued directions for our contribution to limiting the spread of the Coronavirus.

They are guided by the following principles:

- This health crisis requires each of us to act in the best interests of the whole community, but particularly of those most vulnerable to a severe illness caused by Covid19. This is the purpose of our self-sacrifice for the common good
- The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday mass is not new for those who are sick and incapacitated: it now also applies in this situation to those most likely to be in danger from the virus.

The following actions will be taken in this parish:

- Confirmation has been postponed
- Attendance at baptisms, weddings and funerals will be limited to 100 people
- Mass schedules will be reviewed with the aim of keeping the levels of attendance at or below 100 people.
- Provision of mass via webcam or radio will be advertised.

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