

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Sixteenth Sunday in ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore

Sunday, 11.00 am

Sunday Mass will continue to be broadcast live on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stcolmans)

All Saints, Ballela

Sunday, 9.45 am

Weekday masses

Mon, Tues and Fri: 9.30 am (St Colman's)

Thurs: 7.00 pm (All Saints)

Saturday: 10.00 am (St Colman's)

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 19 – None

Sun 26 – None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 19 – Joe Downey

Mon 20 – Agnes Carr & Betty McClure

Sun 26 – None

Recently Deceased

Please pray for:

Tom Aherne (c/o 53 Maypole Park)

John Murphy (3 Sunmount Park)

Update on the closure of our churches

Thanks to those who have come forward to help with the range of initiatives that will need to be implemented:

- Ushers to assist people entering the churches and ensuring that social distancing is maintained
- Cleaners to assist with the increased need to clean the churches before and after each celebration

If you are willing to assist, please contact the parish office.

Baptisms

Baptisms will also recommence with some restrictions. Only one baby (or set of twins) will be baptised in a ceremony, with a restricted number of family members present and observing social distance rules. Baptism will be held on a Sunday and to book contact the parish office.

19th July 2020

Moving towards the reopening of churches

Masses have now commenced. In response to the revision of the restrictions announced previously, the parish has conducted a risk assessment to consider the opening of our churches for worship. The following guidelines have been agreed:

- For the time being, parishioners are asked to share responsibility for maintaining a social distance of **2 metres**
- As the churches are indoor spaces, there will be a limit on the numbers permitted to attend any mass.
- The Sunday Obligation continues to be suspended and you are invited to attend on another day of the week: **two additional masses** have been added.
- Parishioners are asked to follow **guidance on notices** and from ushers regarding seating, directions of travel and use of facilities. An explanatory video is posted on our Facebook page.
- Parishioners are asked to use the **hand sanitisers** on entry to the churches.
- Parishioners are strongly encouraged to wear **face masks** in the churches.
- Bulletins and missalettes cannot be reused so please bring your copies home or place in bin at front door.
- The collection basket will **not** be passed around the church.

The above arrangements will apply to all celebrations (masses, baptisms, funerals, etc).

Donating to the parish

The current health crisis is having a serious impact on donations to many charities. The Diocese has set up an online donation facility on the diocesan website (www.dromorediocese.com) where you can donate to this parish or to clergy support, once or on a monthly basis.

Parishioners who choose to use their weekly envelopes as normal can **deposit them in the box at the entrance of the church**, before or after mass.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

(MT 13:24-43)



Their future doesn't look very promising. After all, Jesus and his followers are just a small group of people in a little corner of Palestine, with few friends among the religious leaders or those in authority, and with a message that doesn't seem to be reaching very far.

Jesus wants his disciples to imagine what the kingdom of God will look like. He uses images, little stories or parables, to paint a picture of the kingdom of God and its future growth.

He talks about the mustard seed. His listeners know that the mustard seed is tiny, yet Jesus tells them that from the smallest of seeds comes a tree large enough for birds to build their nests in it. The kingdom of God is like that mustard seed, he says.

A second image hammers home his point. The kingdom of God is like the yeast a woman mixes in with flour. A small amount of yeast has a huge effect – it has the power to produce bread for a lot of people. The kingdom of God is like yeast, Jesus tells them.

Jesus's message is clear: The kingdom of God may have small, unimpressive beginnings, but like the mustard seed and the yeast, it will grow into something big and wonderful, and have an effect out of proportion to its humble birth. ■

SAY

“Lord, help me to hasten the flowering of God's kingdom of justice, peace and love by being a seed, a leaven, in the life of my church and my community. Amen.”

DO

Many feel excluded from or hurt by the Church. How can you be a gram of yeast in their lives that comforts, heals and builds up? The little things we do can make an enormous difference for God.

PRAY

Pray for yourself and for people everywhere that they will nurture the good that is in themselves and in others.

REFLECT

These are challenging times for the Church in Europe and in the West. Secularism is on the rise, fallout from the abuse scandals continues, many have given up the practice of the faith, while others who remain feel angry, confused and demoralised.

It can seem like the mustard seed is desiccating; that the yeast has lost its power. It can seem that the promise Jesus made to his disciples is turning to ashes, and that, far from expanding, the kingdom of God is contracting and even dying.

That is why it's important to hold fast to the promise Jesus made to his disciples and to us. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God will flourish because it is God's will that it will flourish. And we are called to trust Jesus. We trust him by putting our faith in small things and in God's grace.

Lots of things are happening that are helping the kingdom to grow. Pope Francis talks of a church that is on the streets, open, compassionate, inclusive. He is showing the way. Many Catholics are looking seriously at what it means to be church. They are realising that it isn't made up just of clergy and religious but of all the baptised. They are thinking about what needs to be changed in the Church and how they can be a seed or a leaven bringing new life to their parish. Just as the kingdom of God grew out of small things, they know that the little things we do can grow into something wonderful.

Think about those who have been a seed, a leaven in your life, those family members or others who shaped and inspired you in the faith. How can you be a seed, a leaven, in the lives of others? ■

LEARN

Even though there is a lot of evil in the world, God will have the last word.

Every good deed builds up the Kingdom of God.