



A LAVISH GENEROSITY

(MT 14:13-21)

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees that the people are hungry and he responds to their need.

He says a prayer of blessing and then gives the disciples food to share among the crowd. To their amazement, not only is there enough food for everyone but the leftovers fill 12 baskets. He doesn't let the people go hungry. He doesn't just give them food; he gives them more than enough to eat. There is a super abundance of food.

It is a foretaste of the eternal banquet in the Kingdom of Heaven, and a statement of how we too must live. ■

REFLECT

Today's Gospel speaks of love and generosity. It echoes the kind of lavish love that St Paul writes about in the second reading. Both challenge us in two ways.

First, as individuals. They remind us that to be a Christian means to be generous. We must share – not just our money, but also our time, our love, our very selves with all who are in need. There is no such thing as the private Christian.

Second, they challenge us as a community, a society. As Christians, it is not enough that we are charitable. We are also obliged to build a more just world. We cannot be indifferent to the poor, those who do not have enough to eat. Catholic social teaching is one of the Church's greatest secrets. Most people know where the Church stands on sexual morality. And many think that sex (and money) are all the Church talks about. But the Church has a whole body of wonderful teaching built up over time that speaks about care for the poor, teaching that speaks of solidarity and places the Church and its members firmly on the side of the voiceless and the oppressed. It was because of his fearless defence of the poor of El Salvador that Archbishop Oscar Romero was martyred while celebrating Mass. It was because of her support for the indigenous people of the Amazon that Sr Dorothy Stang was shot dead in 2005. Their fidelity to the Gospel placed them on the side of the poor, even to the extent of losing their lives. The great Brazilian Archbishop Hélder Câmara summed up the distinction between charity and justice in a famous phrase: "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."

To be a follower of Jesus is to work for justice. In fact, the Church teaches that action for justice is a constitutive part of living the Gospel. It is not enough for us to tell the poor, the abused, the unjustly treated, that we will pray for them or give money to charity to support them. We must also do whatever we can to address inequality and injustice. There is plenty of food to go around if we are prepared to share. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be the kind of person you want me to be. Amen."

DO

In today's second reading St Paul makes a wonderful profession of faith. He says there is nothing that can separate him from God's love made visible in Christ: not persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger or even death. No matter what he does or doesn't do, God loves him. He is absolutely certain of God's love. Can you say the same thing? Make his profession of faith your profession of faith.

PRAY

Everything about the Eucharist speaks of solidarity and community. We share the one meal, we call each other sisters and brothers. We offer each other the sign of peace, the sign of unity and togetherness. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist.

LEARN

Jesus is the Bread of Life.

The Christian has a passion for justice.

The Christian is always aware of the needs of others.

PARISH OF DROMORE

Rev Feidhlimidh Magennis Tel: 07702665123

Parish website: www.stcolmans.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolmans

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

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

Parochial House Dromore - Tel: 02892-692218

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Eighteenth Sunday in ordinary Time

2nd Aug 2020

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 2 – Sam & Maisie Burns

William, Margaret, John & Donald McCusker

Sun 9 – Hugh Lavery

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 2- None

Sun 9 - None

Offertory promise collection £1024.00

Readers Dromore

Sun 9: John McKeown

Confirmation

You are asked to pray for the P7 children of St Colman's PS, Dromore. They have concluded their time at the school but before they commence their new school year, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 22nd August at 4.00 pm in St Colman's Church, Dromore. There are 20 children to be confirmed and, in accordance with social distancing requirements, only the children and their sponsor and immediate family will be permitted to attend and occupy one pew. So while not able to be present, the rest of the parish is invited to pray for them on this important day.

Thanksgiving Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

4th September 2020. £499.00 per person sharing. Price includes return bus transfer to Knock, 3 nights' in 4 star Park Hotel with Full Board. All entertainment and excursions. Wheelchair accessible rooms.

Single supplement £90.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

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.

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Feasts of the Week

Tuesday – St John Mary Vianney, Curé of Ars



He was the son of a peasant farmer, and a slow and unpromising candidate for the priesthood: he was eventually ordained on account of his devoutness rather than any achievement or promise. In 1818 he was sent to be the parish priest of Ars-en-Dombes, an isolated village some distance from Lyon, and remained

there for the rest of his life because his parishioners would not let him leave. He was a noted preacher, and a celebrated confessor: such was his fame, and his reputation for insight into his penitents' souls and their futures, that he had to spend up to eighteen hours a day in the confessional, so great was the demand. The tens of thousands of people who came to visit this obscure parish priest turned Ars into a place of pilgrimage. The French State recognised his eminence by awarding him the medal of the Légion d'Honneur in 1848, and he sold it and gave the money to the poor.

Thursday – Feast of the Transfiguration

The Transfiguration of the Lord can sound strangely magical. Jesus goes up onto a mountain and his clothes become dazzlingly white. Prophets appear and talk to him. And then it is all over and Jesus tells his disciples to say nothing.

There is no reason to put it into a gospel – the evangelist makes no capital out of it, it is simply there. And this is the strength of the Transfiguration as an historical incident. *There is no reason for anyone to have invented it.* It is not central to the Christian case. It is not used to win arguments. There is only one reason to put it into the Gospel, and that is because it happened. It is one of those cases of the evangelists writing things down without knowing why they were important, and their very puzzlement is what makes the story so convincing.

Why, then, did it happen? Surely so that we could see and understand that Jesus is at once one of the prophets and the one that was prophesied by them; and that he is God, and lives for all eternity in a blaze of dazzling and unapproachable light.

The true miracle of the Transfiguration is not the shining face or the white garments, but the fact that for the rest of the time Jesus hid his glory so well.

Saturday – St Dominic



He was born in 1170 in Castile (part of modern Spain) and became a canon of the cathedral of Osma. He accompanied his bishop (Diego de Azevedo) in a mission of preaching against the Albigensian heresy, which was then strong in southern France. While the official missions lived in formality and splendour, Dominic and Diego lived in extreme poverty, and prepared with great diligence for the debates that they held with their opponents. When the suppression of Albigensianism was undertaken by invasion and war of a particularly savage kind, Dominic continued to try to preach and persuade.

In 1216 he founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and persuasion. Like the Franciscans, founded a few years before, the Dominicans put great importance on poverty, both of the individual and of the community, and of the need to be involved directly in the world while still living some form of monastic life. At a time when the settled Benedictine monasteries had grown into great and rich institutions, this was a revolutionary and to some a subversive concept. The Friars made a lasting impact on the life of mediaeval Europe, and the Dominicans in particular altered the course of intellectual history by making a well-thought-out and rational response to the new learning that was appearing as long-forgotten thinkers such as Aristotle became known once more in the Christian West.

Dominic died at Bologna on 6th August 1221.