

BE PREPARED!

(MT 25:1-13)

We are approaching the end of the Church's liturgical year and the Sunday readings begin to think about the second coming of Christ. The parable in today's gospel extract is one which is traditionally understood in this way.

The theme is that of the coming of the kingdom, which is presented as the arrival of the bridal couple from the house of the bride's father, and the beginning of the wedding feast. The wedding banquet is a frequent symbol for the Kingdom of God. The moral is that of being prepared: one group of female attendants have intelligently planned for the possible need for more oil for their lamps; the others, described as "foolish", have clearly thought only in the short-term; even when the bridegroom's arrival is delayed, they do not take the opportunity to remedy their situation, but simply doze off. On appealing to the better nature of their companions to share their resources, the others point out that if they do, there will be no lighted lamps at all. As a result, they are locked out of the celebrations.

The groom's reply may well indicate that the bridesmaids may be part of the bride's household, but unknown to him. So the reader is being warned to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man, and presented with models for people who are prepared and who are not. We are being urged not to take anything for granted, that it is our responsibility to be awake when the Lord arrives. ■

SAY

Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.

(Matt 25:13)

DO

When your alarm goes off in the morning, think of the shout, "The bridegroom is coming!"



LEARN

The custom of the time was that the bridegroom would go to the bride's father's house to bring her to his own home.

Apocalyptic literature, such as the books of Daniel and Revelation, was written to encourage communities under persecution to stand firm, that the Lord would come to vindicate them.

In the Hebrew Bible, God was sometimes identified as the bridegroom of Israel; in Matthew's writing, the figure of the bridegroom applied to the Son of Man, who is Jesus.

REFLECT

There are texts in the Bible which look to the Second Coming and the end of the world. The early writings of St Paul suggest that he (and the earliest Christians) thought that this was imminent. However, it became clear that this was not going to happen anytime soon, and that the disciples of Jesus had to get on with living their lives just like everybody else. There are certain Christian groups who see in natural disasters indications of the end of the world, but this is to misunderstand the nature of apocalyptic writing, such as the Book of Revelation, and to interpret it literally.

The warnings in our gospel extracts on these Sundays at the end of this cycle of readings is to shake us out of any possible state of complacency into which we may have fallen. This is due not to any ill will on our part, but rather because the rhythm of daily life, our worries and concerns about our family, work and so on, can lure us into thinking about what is going on at the present time and our awareness of God in our lives can become somewhat dulled. The Scriptures may not be telling us that the end of the world is near: but perhaps they are reminding us that the Lord comes to us in all sorts of ways which we might not realise, because, as far as our spiritual awareness is concerned, we have dozed off. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Parish website: www.stcolmans.org

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Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8th Nov 2020

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore **All Saints, Ballela**
Sunday, 11.00 am Sunday, 9.45 am
Sunday Masses are broadcast live on Facebook
(www.facebook.com/stcolmans)

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 8: None
Thurs 12: Joe Magee
Sun 15: Margaret McAnarney
& The McCann family Co Cavan
Patrick & Mary McPolin

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 8: Matthew, Margaret and Arthur Brown
Sun 15: Patrick & Lucy Delaney

Offertory promise collection £685.90

Readers Dromore

Sun 15: John McKeown

Face masks now obligatory in church.

New restrictions were introduced on Friday 16th October. Churches remain open and mass continue to be celebrated. Attendance at funerals and weddings is currently restricted to 25 people. See the online bulletin for more details about our risk mitigation procedures.

Bereavement Support Service

First Wednesday of every month in the day
Therapy Suite Southern Area Hospice, Newry.
Starts 4th Nov 6.30pm – 8.00pm. An opportunity to have a conversation, gain support or simply listen. Pre booking is essential. Contact Fiona: 02830267711. Max 4 spaces. Please do not book if feeling unwell or have been in contact with a person who has tested positive. Face covering will be expected unless medically exempt.

November Dead Lists

Available at the back of the churches. Please complete and return to the churches or to the Parochial House. Masses will be offered throughout the month for those listed.

Sunday 22 November

The usual Sunday masses will be offered for all our faithful departed in the past year. Please inform the parish office of parishioners not buried in the parish to be included in this mass. The following is a list from our parish records of those who have died since **Nov 2019**: Martha McCullough, Ann Cappa, Rita Keenan, James McDonald, Alice Morgan, Betty McClure, Michael Duggan, Sarah Tugwell, Patrick Kelly, Tom Aherne, John Murphy, Seamus Cunningham, Brigid McEvoy, Philomena Wisdom, Gerald Finegan, Damian Wilson, Felix McConville & Ambrose McConville. Due to restrictions on numbers it is not essential that relatives attend this mass. Candles will be placed on graves afterwards and the mass can be viewed online.

Remember a loved one with an Engraved Leaf on the Southern Area Hospice Memory Tree

The Memory Tree is located in the Southern Area Hospice Memory Garden and provides a beautiful and meaningful way to remember a loved one whilst also helping the Hospice to continue delivering specialist palliative care to patients and support to their families. Call 028 3026 7711 for details or visit <https://www.southernareahospiceservices.org/memory-tree>

ACCORD pre-marriage courses and counselling

ACCORD Newry hope to accommodate couples using online Marriage Preparation programmes which can be booked at www.accord.ie in January to March 2021. ACCORD Newry continues to offer 'in person' Couples Relationships counselling. Contact Moira O'Hare at Accord (07918 170686) for information (office hours: Mon-Wed 5.00 – 8.30 pm and Thurs 5.00 – 7.30 pm)

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Feasts of the Week

Monday - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

The Lateran Basilica was built by the Emperor Constantine on the Lateran Hill in Rome in about 324. The feast of its dedication has been celebrated in Rome on this date since the twelfth century. In honour of the basilica, "the mother and head of all the churches of the City and the World," the feast has been extended to the whole Roman Rite as a sign of unity and love towards the See of Peter, which, as St Ignatius of Antioch said in the second century, "presides over the whole assembly of charity."

Tuesday - Pope St Leo the Great (- 461)

He was born in Etruria and became Pope in 440. He was a true shepherd and father of souls. He constantly strove to keep the faith whole and strenuously defended the unity of the Church. He repelled the invasions of the barbarians or alleviated their effects, famously persuading Attila the Hun not to march on Rome in 452, and preventing the invading Vandals from massacring the population in 455. Leo left many doctrinal and spiritual writings behind and a number of them are included in the Office of Readings to this day. He died in 461.

Wednesday - St Martin of Tours (c.316 - 397)

He was born in the Roman province of Pannonia (approximating to the western half of modern Hungary) in about 316 and was educated at Pavia in Italy. He was baptized, left the army and after spending some time as a hermit on an island off the Ligurian coast, founded a monastery at Ligugé in western France, where he lived a monastic life guided by St Hilary. Later he was ordained priest and became bishop of Tours. In his actions he gave an example of what a good shepherd should be. He founded other monasteries, educated the clergy, and preached the Gospel to the poor. He died in 397. The famous story about St Martin is that while a soldier in Amiens he gave half of his military cloak to a beggar and later had a dream in which the beggar revealed himself as Christ.

Thursday - Saint Josaphat (c.1580 - 1623)

He was born in the Ukraine of Orthodox parents. In 1595 the Union of Brest brought the Ruthenian Church into communion with Catholic Rome while still preserving its own liturgy. The result was a schism within the church itself, with one party wanting to remain Orthodox and in the orbit of Moscow and Constantinople, while the other accepted the Union. Matters were complicated by the presence of the Greek Uniates, a remnant of a century-old attempt at church union (who remain a living church to this day). Josaphat joined the first monastery of the order of St Basil to be united to the Catholic Church: he was the first person to do so. He was ordained priest and, eventually and reluctantly, appointed bishop of Polotsk in 1617. Although Sigismund III Vasa, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, supported the union, the local aristocracy were against it because it threatened their control of ecclesiastical benefices. Plotting with the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, who visited the Ukraine in 1621, they stirred up trouble and as a result Josaphat was murdered by a mob in 1623 while on a pastoral visit to Vitebsk.

Saturday - Saint Laurence O'Toole (1128 - 1180)

Also known as Lorcán Ua Tuathail, he was born at Castledermot, Kildare, Ireland. He was elected archbishop of Dublin in 1161 – he was the first elected archbishop, since his predecessor, Gregory, had already been bishop of Dublin when the city was raised to an archbishopric. He was the first Irish bishop of Dublin, and also the last one before the Reformation: Ireland was invaded by the Normans in 1170 and his successors were all Normans or Englishmen. He took part in the negotiations consequent on the invasion, and negotiated with Henry II of England. Forbidden for a while to return to Ireland after being made a papal legate by the Pope in Rome, he eventually persuaded Henry II to let him return, but he died on the journey, at Eu in Normandy.

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Wearing a face mask is now obligatory in church.

New restrictions were introduced on Friday 16th October. Churches remain open and mass continue to be celebrated.

To contribute to 'tracking and tracing', we ask you to sign an attendance sheet when you enter the churches. If we be informed that a person attending mass has tested positive for the virus, we will be able to alert and advise others in attendance at that time.

We ask all adults and young people to download the Stop COVID-NI app to help with tracking and tracing. Please be a leader of good practice in church and in our community.

- Use the **hand sanitisers** on entry to the churches.
- Wear a **face mask** in the churches.
Maintain a social distance of **2 metres**
- Follow guidance regarding seating, directions of travel and use of facilities.
- **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. Please deposit envelopes in box in church porch.
- The Sunday Obligation continues to be suspended.

The above arrangements will apply to all celebrations (masses, baptisms, funerals, etc). Attendance at funerals and weddings is currently restricted to 25 people.