

## THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

## DON'T PANIC

MARK 4:35-41



Imagine the disciples' panic. There they are in the boat all by themselves when a storm begins to rage. It's so bad the boat is in danger of sinking, and they are full of fear. All seems lost... and then they see Jesus walking towards them, on the water.

Eager as ever, Peter asks Jesus if he can walk towards him on the water, and Jesus invites him to come. So he sets out, but the wind rises, and he panics and starts to sink. Even Peter, the most important figure in the early Church, has a faith that falters in the midst of the storm. But Jesus saves him, and then rebukes him for his weak faith.

As soon as they get into the boat, the winds calm, and the awestruck disciples acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God.

The message is clear: The boat represents the Church, and the disciples represent all believers, while the storm represents the difficulties and doubts the Church is facing. Only when they let go of fear and trust in him do the disciples recognise who Jesus truly is and his power to save them. Trust in Jesus can overcome all our fears. ■

## REFLECT

**A**lmost 33 years ago I began my career as a Redemptorist parish missionary. I gave missions throughout Ulster and north Leinster, and spoke from a lot of pulpits. I loved it. Churches were full, people were enthusiastic, the buzz was wonderful. In my sermons I lauded people for their centuries-long fidelity to the Church and encouraged them to do even better. While vocations and church attendance were beginning to fall, the future seemed bright. All appeared tranquil, at least on the surface. I had no idea of the violent storms that lay just ahead.

Then, suddenly, in the space of a few years, scandals and crises began to

engulf the Church and it found itself in the eye of a terrible unrelenting storm, waves crashing against it from every side. Revelations of sex abuse and other scandals shook people to the core. Catholics began to abandon the practice of the faith, while an aggressive secularism found new strength.

Preaching parish missions became more challenging. I had to rewrite my sermons. I felt seasick.

But the storm had been brewing for a long time. The Church had big problems long before the abuse scandals came along. It was too priest-centred and clerical. It failed to make use of the talents

## DO

All kinds of storms can upset the equilibrium of our lives. Think about how you cope with major crises or setbacks. Do you deal with them constructively? Is there somebody you can turn to for support? Do you know anybody who might need your support right now?

## SAY

**“Lord, help us to trust in you. Strengthen our faith so that we can speak your truth without fear. Amen.”**

## PRAY

Pray for Pope Francis and for all in authority in the Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them steer the Church with confidence and courage through the many storms it encounters.

## LEARN

As Christians, we know that Jesus is with us in the midst of the storms in which we find ourselves. But he is more than with us; he calls on us to face those storms. What might facing the storms mean today? It means speaking truth to power in the Church and doing so in love. It means trusting totally in Jesus. It means letting go of fear. It means being ready, like Peter, to venture everything on Jesus' word.

of lay people. It didn't encourage an adult faith. It allowed a whole generation of young people to be lost. It was too complacent, too casual, too smug, rather like the crew of the Titanic on its maiden voyage. And so it was left shocked and stricken by the storm when it broke, just like the apostles in today's Gospel.

In the Gospel story, Jesus called Peter to face the storm and not to lose his nerve. Jesus challenges us to face today's storms head-on too, to place our faith and trust in him, knowing that with him we will be safe, but without him all will be lost. ■



## PARISH OF DROMORE

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Parish website: [www.stcolmans.org](http://www.stcolmans.org)

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### Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

All Masses and ceremonies are broadcast live on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/stcolmans](http://www.facebook.com/stcolmans))

#### Sunday masses

All Saints, Ballela: 9.45 am

St Colman's, Dromore: 11.00 am

#### Weekday masses

Mon, Tues – 9.30 am, St Colman's, Dromore

Thurs – 7.00 pm, All Saints, Ballela

Sat – 10.00 am, St Colman's Dromore, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**PLEASE NOTE – no mass on Friday 25 June**

#### Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 20: None

Sun 27: Evelyn McAleenan

#### Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 20: Fr Martin McAlinden, Archie Hays

Sat 26: Warren Gilpin

Sun 27: Armelle Davenport

Agnes & James Gribbin

#### Recently Baptised

Eva Sadie, Elena Norma & Ellie Anna Beattie

Luan Sean O'Kane

Offertory promise collection £839.40

#### Education of Priests collection Sun 20<sup>th</sup> June

We are often asked to prayer for vocations to the priesthood. This collection is a concrete way of supporting those who respond to that call. These funds provide them with vital support for their education in seminaries, as they become the future priests of our Diocese.

#### Blessing of Graves

Ballela – Sun 20<sup>th</sup> June 3pm

In order to comply with guidance for outdoor events and having completed a risk assessment, the Blessings of Graves will take place without a gathering and will be broadcast on the Facebook page at 3.00 pm. We ask families **NOT** to attend at that time but would encourage you to visit the cemeteries at some point on the two Sundays, say a prayer and sprinkle Easter water over your family grave(s).

20<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Ballela Community Group

Are pleased to announce that we will be holding a **Treasure Hunt with Afternoon tea, Sun 27<sup>th</sup> June 2-4pm**. We will be having our afternoon tea in the school or weather permitting we can set tables up outside. We ask everyone to wear masks when entering the school and sit at allocated tables. If you wish to take part in the Treasure Hunt but do not want to stay for tea you can bring a box with you and we will fill it with delicious homemade scones, tray bakes and buns. If you wish to just come along for Afternoon tea and do not want to take part in the Treasure Hunt you will be very welcome. Admission is £5 per Adult and children are Free.

### Lough Derg 2021

Lough Derg regrets that it will not be possible in 2021 to reopen Station Island for the Traditional Three Day Pilgrimage or even for the autumn programme of Day Retreats. Lough Derg will again offer the opportunity to **"Do Lough Derg from wherever you are"** on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July. The Prior, Fr La Flynn, will do the three-day pilgrimage on the island during these days, while some of the island staff will also participate from St Mary's Church, Pettigo. Others can join via a live webcam like. To register or for further information, please email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org)

The outdoor **Pilgrimage on the Lough Shore Pilgrim Path** will also be available as the summer goes on. Further information from Lough Derg office 0(0353) 71 9861518 or [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org).