



HOW MUCH AM I WORTH TO YOU?

(MARK 10:17-30)

Jesus sets out on the next stage of his journey to Jerusalem and Mark illustrates the cost of becoming a disciple by the arrival of an unnamed man, who asks about the requirements for eternal life.

He tells Jesus that he has faithfully kept the commandments, then Jesus invites him to come with him as his disciple. But the cost proves too high: it is only when he sadly declines the invitation that the evangelist reveals that he is a wealthy person.

This leads on to Jesus' teaching about riches as an obstacle to being a disciple, and to the disciples' fundamental question about being saved at all. They are then confronted with the idea of salvation as God's gift. A rich person may have ample opportunity to keep the commandments, but this is no advantage over those less fortunate.

Peter then raises the question of those who have embraced voluntary poverty so that they can accompany Jesus as his disciples, unencumbered by possessions. Mark is the only gospel writer in which we find Jesus' promise of a new family and new possessions, the hundredfold promised by hearing and putting into practice the word of God in the parable of the sower. The inclusion of the reference to persecutions would make perfect sense to Mark's community, as it would to many Christians in our time. ■

SAY

"We hold a treasure, Christ the Lord, in earthen vessels."

(John B. Foley)



LEARN

Mark does not have a sermon on ethical behaviour as do Matthew (on the Mount) and Luke (on the Plain);

Jesus' teaching is given in response to actual situations.

Mark's community is familiar with persecution under the Roman emperor Nero.

DO

Take some money, coins or a note, in your hand: reflect on how much Jesus means to you.



REFLECT

Mark does not have the same very negative attitude to wealth as we find in the writings of his fellow evangelist Luke, but, all the same, he does regard it as an obstacle to being a disciple of Jesus. It is hard to imagine that this demand of Jesus for a radical break with family and possessions which he describes is remotely possible for all but a small number of people. Many Christians will, understandably, conclude that this incident does not have anything to say to them.

But there must be some lesson which applies to all of us, and it might be summed up in the implicit question which Jesus is asking this prospective disciple: 'How much am I worth to you?' The cost was too high for the person in the story, and Mark is challenging all those who read or hear his gospel. Is there anything in our lives more important to us than Jesus? Having a family and the responsibilities that go with it is the way in which most Christians live their calling as disciples,

so perhaps the idea of living as simply as we can would make more sense: not getting caught up in the relentless pursuit of things which are not really essential, and which can distract us from those which are truly important.

Many of the details in the gospel stories do not apply to our time, but the teachings of Jesus which they present do. It is up to us to find appropriate ways to live them in our own lives. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday masses

All Saints, Ballela: 9.45 am

St Colman's, Dromore: 11.00 am

Weekday masses

Mon – there will be no mass

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

Thurs – 7.00 pm, All Saints, Ballela

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

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 10: Elizabeth McCusker

Sun 17: Margaret & Daniel Devlin; Anthony McEvoy

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 10: Mary Murphy

Sun 17: None

Offertory promise collection £643.30

Recently Deceased

Doreen Mulligan, formally of Mount St, Dromore.

DROMORE DIOCESAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society will hold its Annual General Meeting on **MONDAY 11TH OCTOBER @ 7:30pm.** using the Zoom video-conferencing facility. After the formal business of Reports and election of officers, there will be a **Talk at 8:00 by Martin Goss entitled "An Irish Airman and the Llandow Air Disaster, March 1950"**

Any member wishing to participate in this AGM is invited to e-mail the Hon Sec: goss.jjm@gmail.com requesting the link to the meeting.

Non-members are most welcome to the talk and will be admitted after the AGM.

Dromore Redress Scheme

The Diocese of Dromore has initiated a redress scheme for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse committed by members of the clergy and others acting under the authority of the Diocese. Full information at: www.dromoreredress.org

10th October 2021

Ballela GAC Lotto

Thurs 7th October: 3 6 22 24

No Jackpot winners. £10 winners: Gary McMullan & The Darragh Children.

Jackpot £2550

Mission Awareness

During October we focus on our missionary responsibilities, to support mission throughout the world and in our own district. On **Sunday 24th October** we take up our annual collection for the Propagation of the Faith. "Today, vast numbers of people just do not know Jesus Christ. For this reason, the mission to the nations continues to be most urgent. World Mission Day is a privileged moment when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of young Churches in mission lands" (Pope Francis). Your contribution is one way in which you can fulfil your call to be a missionary. Envelopes are available in the church porch or alternatively use the Propagation of the Faith envelope which is in along with your weekly envelope.

Sponsor a Hospice Nurse Campaign

As we celebrate **Hospice Care Week (4-8 Oct)**, we reflect on the amazing support we continue to receive and the challenges we have faced over the last 19 months. The coronavirus pandemic has been extremely challenging for us at Southern Area Hospice Services. We had to adapt quickly and ensure that the care of our patients and their families is our top priority. At times it has been heart breaking, with reduced visiting and restrictions, but always we aimed to do our best in these difficult circumstances and ensure families are supported throughout. Our wonderful nurses are the beating heart of Hospice, and we recognise the changes they adapted in the most professional and caring of ways. Therefore, we are launching our **Sponsor a Hospice Nurse** Campaign where we are asking you contribute a regular gift to Hospice through a monthly donation in order to support our future. By sponsoring a nurse for a gift as little as £10 per month you will be helping our hospice to care for and support patients and families today, tomorrow and into the future. To sign up to Sponsor A Nurse visit our website at www.southernareahospiceservices.org/sponsor-a-nurse or contact us on 028 302 67711.

Do you need financial or practical assistance or even a friendly chat?

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is here to help. You can contact us through our helpline number 07738838187