

Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 23 April 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

UNDERCOVER BOSS

LUKE 24:13-35



Several years ago, Channel 4 broadcast a series called 'Undercover boss.' As the title suggests, it was about company bosses who went undercover to see what was really going on in their company.

They went on to the shop floor or into a warehouse or a forecourt to observe what was happening on the ground. And, of course, the employees had no idea that this new person stacking shelves or doing an inventory was actually their boss.

By going deep undercover, bosses were able to get an invaluable insight into what was happening in their company. Staff were frank, open, and uninhibited with the boss because they didn't know who he or she was.

They failed to recognise the boss. To them, it was simply a new employee, a stranger, someone needing to learn the ropes.

It's a little like what happens in the beautiful story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in today's Gospel. The two had spent so much time with Jesus, but they failed to recognise him until the breaking of bread. Only then did they realise they had been talking all along to their undercover boss. ■

PRAY

At the beginning of today's Gospel, the two disciples are dejected, without hope. Pray for all who feel crushed by hopelessness or despair, that they may know that God is with them.

LEARN

In the liturgy, Christ becomes visible

God is with us at all times

"The Lord meets us, men and women created in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:27) and becomes our companion on the way. In this sacrament ... Christ becomes for us the food of truth."

Pope Benedict, *Sacramentum Caritatis*

DO

Make a conscious effort today and at every Mass to listen to the readings and the words of consecration.

SAY

Say this beautiful prayer based on today's Gospel: "Stay with us, Lord Jesus, as evening falls. Be our companion on our way. In your mercy inflame our hearts and raise our hopes, so that, in union with all our brothers and sisters, we may recognise you in the scriptures and in the breaking of bread" (Evening Prayer, Monday Week 4).

REFLECT

The story of the two discouraged disciples encountering the stranger on the Emmaus road points to four ways we can recognise the risen Christ.

First, in gathering together. Christ is present whenever two or three gather together in his name. As Jesus was present to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, even though they did not recognise him, Jesus is present to us the moment we come together. He is here with us now, present in this community.

Second, in Scripture. Jesus is present to us in the Scriptures. According to Vatican II, "Christ is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the church." Do we really believe this? Or do we regard the readings as merely obscure texts,

snippets of history? Just as the hearts of the disciples burned within them as Jesus interpreted the Scriptures on the road, we, too, must listen to Christ speaking to us in the Scriptures with open, eager hearts.

Third, in the breaking of the bread. Jesus is present to us in the Eucharist. When we receive Holy Communion, it is Christ himself whom we receive. The question is, do we really recognise him, really believe this is Christ with us, Christ within us, just as the two disciples recognised him present with them at the breaking of the bread?

Fourth, in others. Jesus is present in all we meet. Remember the judgement scene in Matthew 25. On judgement day, on what basis will God separate the sheep from the goats, the saved from the lost? "I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty

and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; I was naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me. For as often as you did this to one of the least of these sisters or brothers of mine, you did it to me."

As Christians, we are called to see the face of Christ wherever we look, especially in the uncomfortable places. In the face of the asylum seeker, the junkie, the mother struck down with cancer, the homeless boy shivering in a doorway on a freezing winter's night.

The Risen Christ is present to us, with us, at all times and in so many guises. You could say he is our undercover boss.

The question is, how good are we at recognising him? ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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23rd April 2023 Third Sunday of Easter

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet 7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory 11:00am Dromara

Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Cemetery Sunday 21st May

Gargory after 9am mass Dromara 12 noon
Leitrim 3pm Dechomet 5pm

Recently deceased

Bridie McGrillen, Rathfriland Rd, Dromara

Anniversaries

Dechomet

Sat 22nd Charlie Rooney & Deceased Family Members
John Sweeney
Sat 29th Paddy & Phil Turley

Leitrim

Sat 22nd Margaret Morgan
Wed 26th Eileen McCartan
Mary Ward
Sat 29th Jim Joe O'Hare
Clare McCrickard

Dromara

Sun 23rd Harry & Sarah McAllister
Sun 30th Joe & Margaret Rice

SHSCT Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving

You are warmly invited to a Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving for parents and families who have been bereaved through pregnancy loss or the death of a baby, child or young person in Craigavon Area Hospital or the wider community.

Sun 21st May at 3:00pm

Seagoe Parish Centre
46 Seagoe Rd, Portadown, BT63 5HW

A floral tribute will be created in remembrance, so you may wish to bring a flower and you will have the opportunity to view the Book of Remembrance.

All Welcome.

For more information call Bereavement Midwives
T. (028) 37562150 or (028) 37563136

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£1,006	£871
Trócaire	£1,070	£1,583
St Michael's Hall Tuesday Whist £522		

Sign of Peace



I would like to re-introduce at mass.
You can wish people peace or offer a hand.
There will be people who do not shake hands,
in protection of you, others or themselves.
Please respect this.

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock Sun 7th May
Leaving Eurospar, Castlewellan Rd, Newcastle
7:00am, collecting pilgrims in Castlewellan
7:15am, return to Castlewellan 9:30pm
Cost £22. Tel: 07725859023

BINGO

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group' for the final bingo session of this academic year on Sun 7th May at 3pm in St Michael's Parish Hall. Doors open 2:30pm.
OVER £550 PRIZE MONEY MUST GO.
Also raffle and refreshments so please come along and show your support for the school.

Lough Derg One-Day Retreats

1st, 7th, 9th, 14th, 20th, 27th & 29th May
Booking essential
T: 00353 719861518
E: info@loughderg.org
Website: www.loughderg.org

SVDP: Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067

Safeguarding Contact: P Carville 07789917741