

## WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

John points towards Jesus and the two men turn to follow him. Jesus sees them following and rather than ask them who they are and what they want, he instead asks them "What are you looking for?" There's depth to this question; it goes beyond the surface and draws us to reflect inward. It's a searching question, and one that you and I also need to answer. What are we looking for in following Jesus? Having been pointed in Jesus' direction by our family, or by other means, what is it we are looking for that keeps us here?

## COME AND SEE

When the disciples ask Jesus where he is staying, he simply responds: "Come and See." It's another way of saying "come and take a look for yourself" – don't just listen to what other people say about me, or what others believe about me, come and experience who I am and what I am like for yourself.

This is so freeing! It gives us permission to ask questions, to take our time exploring the gospels, considering Jesus' words, observing his actions, weighing up the kind of person he was and the way in which he lived his life. Do I spend enough time doing this? Do I read the Bible? Do I talk to others and dialogue with them about my questions and ponderings? Do I pray and ask Jesus to reveal himself to me? Do I reflect on the qualities Jesus exhibited? Do I mirror these in my own comings and goings?

## SHARING WITH OTHERS

Andrew runs to tell his brother Simon (Peter). He is eager to share what he has found. How eager am I to talk about my faith and to share it

with others? Why do so many of us find it difficult to talk about? I know for myself it took many years before I felt comfortable talking openly about my faith and beliefs with anyone outside my circle of family and friends. It was partly because I didn't want to come across as a 'holy joe', or as pious or self-righteous; it was also because I didn't feel I had the right words to express what was inside me.

It can also be difficult within our society to find spaces for 'God-talk'. Politics and religion are topics that are discouraged in our workplaces and social settings. It's common to hear people claim they are "spiritual but not religious"; and many people view faith as something too deep and private to discuss with others.

These three words, however, demonstrate that sharing our faith is not about telling others what to believe and how to live; it's not about forcing Jesus and faith on anyone. No – it's about finding our own faith and then witnessing to it in how we live our life; living our faith in such a way that it captures the interest and imagination of others... loving, forgiving, showing kindness and compassion, acting justly... living in a way that invites those around us to "come and see" the faith/person that enlivens us, gives us hope, and keeps us going.

## COME AND SEE ME

Jesus' three words are an invitation to all of us. It seems to me that you and I have the opportunity to offer a counter-invitation. We can invite Jesus to "come and see" where we live. To come and see our life, our work, our home, our loved ones, and ultimately, to come and see our hearts.

Don't be afraid of the invitation. Open your life and follow. ■



### Today's readings

Ex 20:1-17

1 Cor 1:22-25

Jn 2:13-25

The Jerusalem Temple was at the heart of Jewish faith. Especially at the three great annual pilgrimage feasts, it was crowded with visitors. Some wanted to buy an animal such as an ox for sacrifice: turtle doves were the cheapest for poor people. At Passover, every family needed a lamb. The annual tax could only be paid in one special coin and charging others for it was an expensive business. The area around the Temple at a time like Passover was crowded. It is this busy atmosphere that is the setting for today's gospel. Jesus is enraged because the business of the Temple has little room for the worship of God. His bold action of turning over the tables and driving out the animals recalls the great prophets like Jeremiah who made similar protests. It will involve him in conflict with the Temple leaders that will lead inevitably to his death. But he will be raised to life on the third day.

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

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7 March 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year B

Psalter Week 3

# Stu( ) Space

SERIES: JUST THREE WORDS

Season colour: VIOLET

In this new series, Clare Gilmore explores the sheer depth contained in 'just three words'.

## COME AND SEE



Most of the Sunday gospel readings this year [Year B in the liturgical cycle] are taken from the Gospel of John. It is also in the Gospel of John (1:39) that we find Jesus speaking the three words: "Come and see". They are part of a dialogue that takes place between Jesus and two disciples of John the Baptist, after John has pointed Jesus out to them and declared him to be "the lamb of God". Let's take a close look at what unfolds, and how Jesus' three little words "come and see" are in fact an invitation to all of us...

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Please remember these anniversaries in your prayers

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Barney O'Hare Patrick McCartan Willie Rooney
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Patricia Savage (MM) Seamus and Bridie Savage Peter McNeill John McNeill
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Maggie O'Hare Anne Bannon Denis Bannon
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Hughes (Derry) Pearl McEvoy Joe and Margaret Rice

### Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

On Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Mar at 7:30pm the Society will host an online lecture by Michael McKernan entitled "Where did St Patrick come from?"

Access to the event will be available from 7:20pm with a start at 7:30pm sharp.

A link to the talk can be obtained by emailing the Hon Secretary [goss.jjm@gmail.com](mailto:goss.jjm@gmail.com) and will be forwarded on Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Mar.

### Donations received and lodged:

	<u>21<sup>st</sup> Feb</u>	<u>28<sup>th</sup> Feb</u>
Parish	541	1397
Priest	235	775
Sick & Retired Priests	70	124

Thank you for your generosity.

### Liatroim Fontenoys

**Fireside Quiz for Trócaire** available in Leitrim shop, £2 per quiz, donation box beside quiz sheets.

### Liatroim Fontenoys Player Registration

It's time to register your young players for the 2021 season. Registration for Juvenile Players at Liatroim Fontenoys Club is now open. Forms can be accessed through the Club Instagram page, Facebook page and the club App or alternatively you can contact the Children's Officer at the Club, Mrs Martina Walsh (07876400820).

### You are invited to attend St Patrick's College, Maynooth Annual Trócaire Lecture

*"Caring for the Human Family and our Common Home"* Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Mar at 6.30pm.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle will deliver the keynote address. The event will be delivered online this year. Advance registration for this free online event is required. Please register at:

<https://trocaire-org.zoom.us/j/6810123456789>

For enquiries about this event please contact [colm.hogan@trocaire.org](mailto:colm.hogan@trocaire.org)

**Weekend Masses:** Sat 6:00pm Sun 9:00am

**Weekday Masses:** Mon 9:00am Tue 9:00am  
Wed 7:30pm Fri 7:30pm

### Confirmation and First Holy Communion

There have been no dates agreed. When the schools re-open fully and the churches open for the celebration of Eucharist it may be possible to fix dates to celebrate these sacraments. Priority will be given to Confirmation. First Communion may be celebrated in this school year or in early Autumn.

### Cemetery Services

It is likely that no large gatherings will be possible for many months to come. The service can be done online, as it was done last year. The service could be on a Sunday afternoon or week evening. I would value your feedback.

### Census 2021 will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar

Census Packs are to be posted to every house next week. Anyone who does not receive a pack can ring the contact centre for free on: 0800 328 2021, or visit the website at [www.census.gov.uk/ni](http://www.census.gov.uk/ni)