

Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Issue Date Oct 3rd

Oct 2 nd 7 30 Av	Anne Dunne Bernadette McEvoy Thomas Moore
Oct 3 rd 10 30 Av	Michael Campbell Paddy and Lena Campbell
Sat Oct 9 th 7 30	John Crawley Edward Rock
Sun 10 th 10 30 Av	Petr, Una and Oliver Sands Jim and Lizzie Gaffney and dec'd of family. Harry Conlon (Belfast)

Once again, there will be no public celebration of Dromin Patrún on Oct 10th.

Please feel free to dress your family graves and visit the cemetery over the weekend or on the Sunday - adhering to the guidelines for public health.

Jesus faces the test of the Pharisees who are using the thorny issue of divorce to force him into a controversy. Divorce, then as now, was one of what are sometimes called 'neuralgic' issues. They are issues that cause great pain, not only to those directly involved but to all the people close to them as well. It has been said that our treatment of the 'opposite' sex is a great test of our humanity and it seems that God and religion has always had something to say about marriage and relationships.

The Genesis story tells us that God made man and woman to be complementary. He forms the woman from the rib taken from the side of man. The symbolism is of complementarity and of working side-by-side. He did not take woman from under the foot of man and he speaks of the union of man and woman as constituting one body; one flesh.

In his reply to the Pharisees, Jesus tries to teach the unteachable. He uses the teaching techniques of his time and tradition and answers with a question that throws the questioner back into his own tradition and culture. Jesus invokes Moses, the great law-giver who nonetheless allowed his people to divorce on certain grounds. Jesus accepts the answer and goes on to explain that this was a stage on the way to greater maturity and growth.

He tells his interrogator that Moses was dealing with a people who were difficult and unteachable in those days and he throws the questioner further back into his own tradition by quoting Genesis. As Jesus moves away from the question and the debate, his answer is obviously still causing waves as his disciples, 'back in the house' question him again about his reply. He elaborates on his teaching that divorce and adultery are unacceptable.

He then widens their perspective by talking about the kingdom of God and shows tenderness, following what could be construed as a harsh reply, by embracing and blessing a little child.

