

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in ordinary time**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

## 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

## Recently deceased



*Cahal Keown, Castlewellan*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Dechomet

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup>** Agnes Rooney  
**Sat 31<sup>st</sup>** Timothy Doyle

### Leitrim

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup>** **Jacqueline Murphy MM**  
Bernard Cunningham  
**Sat 31<sup>st</sup>** Fr Jim Kerr  
Cissie Kelly  
Eugene O'Hare  
Richard Duggan

### Dromara

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup>** Dan Hughes (*Finnis*)  
Elizabeth McCoubrey (*Derry*)  
Molly, Tom & Padraig McMullan  
Maira McMullan-Grogan  
**Fri 30<sup>th</sup>** Branniff Family  
Sheila McGreer  
Eileen & Peter O'Hare & Deceased  
Family Members  
**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Daniel Hughes (*Derry*)

### Gargory

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Patrick & Elizabeth McCartan  
Mark McEvoy

**Gargory Altar Rota**  
**Sept - Carmel & Geraldine**

**Leitrim Cleaners**  
**Sept - Patricia, Tina, Nadine & Anne**

**Collections Dromara Drumgooland**  
Parish £415 £981

*Thank you for continuing to support your parish*

## Peter Morgan's Cottage Talk

Eoin Haplin, a Professional Archaeologist from Slievenisky, will give an illustrated talk on the rich archaeology and historical monuments of Slieve Croob and the Mournes in Peter Morgan's Cottage on **29<sup>th</sup> Aug at 7:30pm**. It is a free event, but Booking is essential through EventBrite, search for 'The Monuments of the Mournes tickets'

## **Weekend Retreat for Mission Supporters and Friends of SMA** **Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (4:30pm) - Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Sept (2:00pm)**

The SMA community welcomes our Supporters and Friends to this *Weekend Retreat and Reflection*, which will be an opportunity to take time aside in the tranquil and relaxed setting of Dromantine. All will join in celebrating Mass each day at the Novena in honour of St Thérèse. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated during the weekend.

## Peter Morgan's Cottage

We are planning to host a Craft Fayre on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, from 10am - 1pm. It's an opportunity to support local Crafters, Artisans and also to support Peter Morgan's cottage. There are a limited amount of Tables. Book early to secure a table to sell your wares and produce. To book a table contact Michelle on 07922952011 or Lucy on 07788116209

## **Diocesan Safeguarding:**

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329  
Email: [safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

## **SVP contact numbers:**

Dromara 077 3883 8191  
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

# Sunday Message

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 25 August 2024 • Colour Green • Psalter Week 1



In today's first reading, Joshua puts a direct challenge to the people of Israel. Make up your minds once and for all, he says: "If you will not serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve."

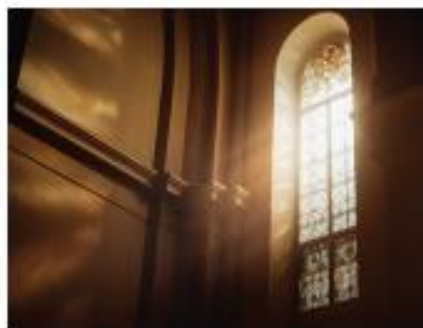
In today's Gospel, Jesus puts a similar direct challenge to his followers. Because of his teaching about the Living Bread, many of his disciples gave up on him and no longer followed him. His teaching was too difficult to live by, too radical, too hard to stomach.

Rejection is always painful. Jesus must have worried that even his closest friends would abandon him too. So he asks the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?"

It's a question Jesus puts directly to each of us also: Do you wish to go away too? Or do you wish to stay? Either way, why? Whatever answer we give will have tremendous implications for us because it will shape the direction of our lives.

After Joshua challenges the Israelites, they give a clear unequivocal answer: "There is no way that we will forsake the Lord to serve other gods. Look at all that God has done for us." And after Jesus challenges the twelve, Simon Peter takes it on himself to give a clear unequivocal answer on behalf of his colleagues: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Today Jesus asks each of us that same question. He is not looking for a half-hearted, equivocal answer. He wants to know up front where each of us stands. ■



## PRAY

Pray for those you know who no longer go to church or no longer believe in God. Pray also for those who introduced you to the faith and brought you up in it.

## LEARN

Each Christian is called to say a personal "yes" to Jesus

Following Jesus means having to make hard choices

## DO

We know the statistics. We know that many people have fallen away from the practice of the faith or have given up on the church entirely, maybe even members of our own families. Today's Gospel offers us an opportunity to think about why we choose to stay when so many others have not. Think of the reasons why your faith is so important to you.

## SAY

**"Lord, to whom shall I go? You have the message of eternal life."**

## REFLECT

For many people, what they believe is often second-hand. It's what their parents or grandparents have told them. This is especially true of religion. We are nearly all conscripts, not volunteers. Our religious beliefs and practices were handed down to us like clothes handed down from an older brother or sister. The result is that we may never fully own our faith. We may never answer truthfully for ourselves the two important questions Jesus put to his followers: "Who do you say that I am?" and

the question in today's Gospel, "Do you wish to go away too?"

A second-hand faith will not survive hard times - a crippling illness to ourselves or a loved one, the death of a beloved spouse, a great injustice inflicted by a friend, a cruel betrayal, church scandals. It may not even survive a silly row with a priest.

So it is important that I "own" my faith, that I believe, not because my parents and

teachers taught me to believe and to go to church, but because I personally want to do these things. This kind of faith is not primarily the acceptance of a set of beliefs but a personal commitment to the person of Jesus. It's being able to say with Peter, boldly and with complete conviction: "You are the Holy One of God. You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. To whom else could we go?" ■