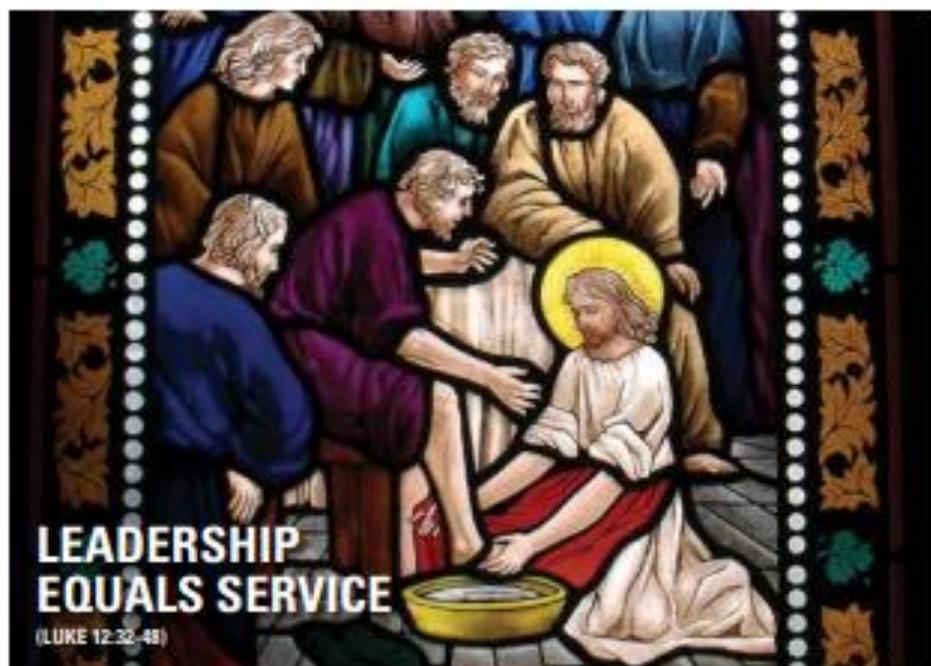


## THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



## LEADERSHIP EQUALS SERVICE

(LUKE 12:32-48)

Stained glass depiction of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Bangkok

Our Gospel reading today turns towards the final judgment at the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus' audience are advised to remain in a constant state of readiness, as they do not know when the Master will return. However, judgment is ongoing in the present, as the Lord is aware whether people are living up to their responsibilities or taking advantage of the master's absence.

It is difficult to overemphasise the shock of the householder's reaction towards the faithful and watchful servants who are awaiting his return. He does not expect them to serve him a meal, but instead puts on an apron, sits them down and waits on them himself. Such a reversal of roles would be unthinkable in a society where a person's position in the social hierarchy would determine their behaviour. But we do find in the gospels this idea of authority as service, expressed here as table service and, elsewhere, Jesus sets this out as the model of leadership for his disciples.

Jesus responds to Peter's question about to whom this parable applies, but Jesus answers generally with another parable, this one about what kind of person the steward in charge of the household should be. This official was responsible not just for carrying out the instructions of the owner of the house, but also for the welfare of the servants in his charge. So, to be a faithful steward to the master, this person had to be attentive to the needs of the other members of the household. Thus, service is not just vertical, upwards to the one above, but also horizontal, toward the other members of the community. ■

## REFLECT

It is difficult to avoid the practice of distinguishing between members of human society in terms of social hierarchy. Even nations which pride themselves on having abolished noble classes find themselves promoting certain individuals over others.

Luke's presentation of Jesus' teaching on authority and the way it is exercised among disciples is nothing short of revolutionary in the thinking of his time – and ours. We find the same idea of authority as service demonstrated in the Gospel of John, where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, a task that a Jewish slave could not be forced to perform. This would apply to the faithful steward, who is rewarded for conscientious fidelity.

Our reading carries a warning about the abuse of authority on the part of those entrusted with such a role, with examples of the fate of those who fall in the exercise of their duties: abusing their position of authority or neglecting to carry out their responsibilities, even for not knowing what their position actually entailed.

It is easy to imagine that the gospels refer only to the religious authorities of Jesus' time, or that of the evangelists. But the Scriptures have a permanent significance: they apply just as much to our time, our present church community. Any leader is in a position of trust: much will be expected. ■

## LEARN

A steward was the official left in charge to manage the household while the owner was away.

The steward was responsible for the well-being of the other members of the household.

In the Gospel of Luke, authority in the community of disciples is expressed in service.

Leaders are given more responsibility and will be held to higher account.



## DO

When you are helping someone else, remember that this is what discipleship is all about.

## SAY

Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

(Psalm 32:12)



# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dromara

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** Harry McNeill  
Mary E McKay (Dree)  
Sean McKay  
**Fri 12<sup>th</sup>** Pat and Annie Branniff  
**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>** Deceased Members of McKinny Family  
(Artana)

#### Leitrim

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup>** Kevin Mooney  
**Wed 10<sup>th</sup>** Tom Fegan  
**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>** Bernard and Ellen Cunningham

### Lourdes 59 Cub Winners

28<sup>th</sup> May - No. 20 S.&M. McEvoy  
4<sup>th</sup> June - No. 24 No winner  
11<sup>th</sup> June - No. 1 No winner  
18<sup>th</sup> June - No. 21 Kieran McEvoy  
25<sup>th</sup> June - No. 6 No winner  
2<sup>nd</sup> July - No. 1 No winner  
9<sup>th</sup> July - No. 45 Carmel King  
16<sup>th</sup> July - No. 23 No winner  
23<sup>rd</sup> July - No. 26 Loretta Gribben  
30<sup>th</sup> July - No. 12 Maire Ward

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£132	£855

### Cairn Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Walk from Peter Morgan's Cottage / Dree Hill Rd/  
Slieve Croob. Return by Pass Loanan.  
7 miles/11k approx. 2-2 1/2 hrs.  
Road, track, some wet ground.  
Boots recommended.  
Everyone welcome. No dogs.  
Meet at the Cottage from 9am.  
Walk starts promptly at 9 30am.  
Refreshments at the Cottage on return.  
Donations welcome.  
Queries: contact 97 532 479

### NI Blood Transfusion Service

Blood donation session in St Malachy's High  
School, Castlewellan,  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 12:30pm-4pm & 5pm-7pm  
By appointment only - tel. 08085 534 653

### Pilgrimage Walk in Glenalough, Co Wicklow

Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 30 places available to young adults,  
18-30 year olds. Cost £10 each, to cover bus and  
entry into Glenalough. Bring packed lunch and  
suitable footwear for walking.  
Please promote to friends and family. The bus will  
pick up on route from Hilltown to Newry, also from  
Lurgan to Banbridge.

To register email: [youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org)

**Whist** restarting in St Michael's Hall, Finnis on  
Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8:00pm. Adm £5. Please support.