

31 JULY 2022

Sunday Message

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



TO HAVE OR TO BE?

(LUKE 12:13-21)

Throughout Luke's Gospel, the theme of riches and possessions and the danger they pose to the human person keeps recurring. In today's extract, an anonymous person in the crowd surrounding Jesus asks him to intervene in a family dispute concerning inheritance.

Very often, a rabbi would be asked to adjudicate in such a matter. But Jesus dismisses his request, and rather abruptly at that: he has more serious issues which he wants his hearers to consider. Jesus does not think that the matter is as simple as ensuring fair shares all round: he uses it as a springboard for teaching about avarice, or greed, quite a different subject. Money or possessions may well be necessary for human life, but when they become an obsession, when people think that this will bring them security, they are sadly mistaken, as Jesus illustrates in the parable of the rich fool: this follows his warning about never being satisfied, but always wanting more. Both these responses are provoked by the initial, perhaps seemingly reasonable, request from the voice in the crowd.

The rich man thinks that he can assure his life by what he owns: he does not grasp that life is a gift from God, and that it is God who decides when to withdraw his gift. Another element in the stories of people accepting Jesus' message is that it puts possessions and money in a different light. One result of being converted to Jesus is to share what the person has, that the person becomes free in themselves and are no longer shackled to what they own. Life is a gift and should be treated as such. ■

SAY

To all life thou givest, to both great and small: in all life thou livest, the true life of all.

(W. Chalmers Smith)

LEARN

Luke regards the acquisition of excess wealth or possessions as a dangerous obstacle to accepting Jesus and his message.

This does not mean that money or possessions are somehow evil in themselves:

But when such things become a source of obsession, they can destroy a person's life, their very soul.

To accept Jesus and his message liberates a person – as shown in the story of Zacchaeus the tax-collector.



DO

Make the Sign of the Cross: ask the Lord for the wisdom to examine your own priorities in life, then act on them.

REFLECT

In Luke's thought, possessions are not evil in themselves: but they can come between the person and the Gospel values which Jesus sets before us. We cannot survive without shelter, food and water and, at the beginning and end of our lives, the care of others. The question which we find put before us in our gospel readings is, 'What is the most important thing in your life?' One way of facing this question is to put ourselves in the shoes of the characters in the stories and ask

ourselves, 'How would I react?' We shall encounter several incidents over the coming weeks and consider the response of the characters who feature in them.

In the tradition and life of the church, from earliest times, there has been religious life, that is, women and men devoting themselves to the service of God and vowing themselves to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience. No matter how idealistic various movements

have been at their beginning, the physical demands of basic human existence have usually led to a modification of the original vision and practice.

Perhaps Jesus is asking us all today to examine our priorities and to think about what is most important in our lives: different people have different needs; there is no 'one size fits all' – except the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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31st July 2022
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend masses

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

Weekday masses this week
Fri 5th Aug 7:30pm Dromara

Anniversary Masses

Dromara

Sun 7th Harry McNeill
Mary E McKay (Dree)
Sean McKay

Greetings from Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre

Weekend Workshop - *The Long Goodbye:*

Practical Advice for Caregivers of People Living with Dementia

Many people living with dementia or caring for them feel as though they are alone. This workshop seeks to provide practical information and support to build a bridge of connection and understanding. We will explore each stage of the 'journey with dementia' from a person-centred perspective and explain how best to offer support to ensure the best quality of life for the person living with dementia and the people around them.

Fri 19th Aug 5pm - Sun 21st Aug 2pm £220 / €260

Workshop Facilitator: Father Hugh Lagan SMA

Fr Lagan is a priest with the Society of African Missions and a chartered clinical psychologist.

He has led retreats, workshops and trainings internationally on psychological and spiritual well-being, positive change, trauma, mental health and resilience.

Please contact Jacinta or Louisa to reserve your place:

Tel: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964

Email: admin@dromantineconference.com

Gargory Altar Rota - Aug Roseleen & Anne

Collections

Parish

Dromara

£185

Drumgooland

£

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Niall Doyle

Congratulations to all the St Malachy's High School Graduates 2022

Any past student from St. Malachy's High School who has recently graduated and would like to be included in our submission in the local newspaper in August, please contact Mrs Mags O'Hare at the school on 028 437 78255 or mohare964@c2kni.net. All information must be submitted before Fri 5th Aug

Cairn Sunday 7th 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 12th Aug 12:30pm-4pm & 5pm-7pm

By appointment only - tel. 08085 534 653

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

Request - Clan naGael, Lurgan, are celebrating their centenary and are looking for a photo of Fr Peter McEvoy who served in Dromara Parish from 1920 to 1933. If anyone has a photo or any information on Fr McEvoy please contact the parochial house and the information can be passed on.