

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

14<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### 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 8<sup>th</sup>** 7:30pm Dromara

The **sick and housebound** will be attended this week

### Recently Deceased



### ANNIVERSARIES

#### DECHOMET

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>** John Fitzpatrick

#### LEITRIM

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>** Deceased Members of  
McMullan Family (*Legananny*)  
Pat & Aidan McAnulty  
Paddy & Gerard O'Hare  
**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>** Henry & Rita O'Hare

#### DROMARA

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup>** Dean Tony Davies  
Terry Davies

### Young Adults Pilgrimage to Lourdes

6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 18 to 30 year olds.

A great opportunity to the faith, spirit and fun of a Lourdes Pilgrimage, volunteer to help in Lourdes and grow in faith with other like-minded young people.

For more information email your name and mobile number to Frances at [youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org)

SVP Drom 077 3883 8191 / Drum 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact Pat Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£345	£1,033
Priest	£591	£1,814
Christmas	£1,918	£3,768

*Thank you for your continued contributions  
(figures include Dec standing orders)*

### Do This in Memory

The next part of the First Communion preparation programme will be on  
**13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> Jan**

The children are asked to bring a small bottle of water, it will be blessed during mass.

### BINGO

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's  
Finnis Parents Group' on  
**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Jan at 3pm**

for a great afternoon of Bingo in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2:30pm. Good fun, refreshments and a raffle, so please come along and show your support for the school.

### St Colman's College Open Day

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 10am-1pm**

Principal's address 11am & 12noon

### Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

The Society will host an online lecture by **Geoff Cobb** entitled

*"From Poverty to Power: the Irish in New York"*.  
on

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan at 7:30pm**

*The ZOOM room will open at 7:20pm.*

*The talk will start at 7:30pm sharp.*

We are delighted to welcome back our New York contributor, Geoff Cobb.

Geoff, the author of four books on Brooklyn history and a 2021 publication entitled *"The Irish in New York: Profiles of New Yorkers who have Shaped the Empire State"*,

is vice president for local history for the New York Irish History Round Table and a regular contributor to Irish America magazine.

A link to the talk can be obtained by e-mailing the Hon Secretary [goss.jjm@gmail.com](mailto:goss.jjm@gmail.com) and will be forwarded on Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year B • 14 January 2024 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

### I WILL FOLLOW HIM

JOHN 1:35-42

**Question: Who do you follow? It's something millions of people do on X, (formerly known as Twitter) - literally.**

As you know, X is a social networking tool that lets you follow other people and receive messages from them. You can follow people, and they can follow you. And you can 'unfollow' them, if they annoy or bore you. The most popular person on X is X-owner Elon Musk, with over 140 million followers.

Video-sharing platform TikTok is most popular with teenagers. At the time of writing, the top TikToker is Senegalese-born Italian Khabane Lame, with more than 160 million followers. The most popular person on Instagram is Cristiano Ronaldo with over 582 million followers.

But you don't need a social media account to follow someone or something. Who or what you follow depends on your interests and enthusiasms.

Maybe you're a sports fan, and you follow your local club or county team. Maybe you support a political party or politician or movement. Maybe there's a certain brand or fashion label or product that you like. I like Apple. When Apple launches something new, I want to have it, even if I can't afford it.

It's part of human nature to attach ourselves to a person, movement or cause, and follow it. In one way or another, even if we never think about it, we are all followers.

Today's Gospel is about following. Jesus calls his first disciples, and they follow him. They leave behind their families and way of life to follow him. There must have been something extraordinarily magnetic about Jesus to make people give up everything to follow him. It seems reckless. Irresponsible. Yet this is what they do.

On social media, you can unfollow someone if you wish. You can also stop following a political party or celebrity or cause. Perhaps you lose interest. Perhaps your worldview changes. Perhaps you grow more mature or detached. Maybe you want a quieter life. Most of Jesus' followers gave up following him when it wasn't trendy anymore, when it became risky.

The challenge for us Christians is never to give up following Jesus. That, even when we stumble and fail, we pick ourselves up and follow him again; that, even when the Church disappoints us, we don't let its weakness stop us from following Jesus. That no matter what trials or tribulations come our way, we never stop following Jesus. That we follow him always, faithfully, to the very end. ■

agency. Never allow yourself to be carried along with the crowd.

Second, to follow is a declaration of loyalty. We identify with a person, a belief, a cause, a movement. We state publicly: this is what I subscribe to, what I believe, what I support. It's taking our lead from the one we follow. We can follow in the wrong direction - think of those who stormed the Capitol building in Washington - towards violence, insurrection, white supremacy. We can follow in the right direction - think of those who followed Dr Martin Luther King - towards justice, equality, racial harmony.

Today, there are so many competing voices, so many people and causes clamouring for our attention. What way do we follow? Who directs our lives? Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." As his disciples, we follow him. We take our lead from him. He is our guide. He shows us the way.

### DO

Reflect on what it means to follow Jesus. How closely do you follow him? How much would you be prepared to give up to follow him?

### PRAY

Ask the Lord to give you the courage to follow him faithfully, whatever the cost.



### LEARN

Each of us has a vocation to spread the Gospel

To follow Jesus means to become his disciple

Discipleship is a constant turning towards the Lord

### SAY

**"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life."**

### REFLECT

**T**oday, it might be useful to think about what it means to be a follower. We Christians follow Jesus, but why? We follow Jesus, but how?

There are three aspects to following we should keep in mind.

First, to follow is a deliberate act, a decision we make with eyes wide open. A conscious, calculated commitment. Something we take responsibility for. A good follower doesn't follow blindly, unthinkingly. After World War II, many of Hitler's henchmen tried to deny responsibility for their actions by claiming they were simply following orders. Some of those responsible for what happened in state and religious-run institutions where abuse took place also claimed they were just doing what they were told. To follow - a person, cause, movement - is something we do with open eyes, fully aware of what we're doing, following because we choose to. Always have

Third, to follow someone faithfully is to imitate them. Followers tend to take on the characteristics of the one they follow. The brutality of the Nazis reflected the brutality of their leader; the loving service of a member of the St Vincent de Paul society reflects its founder's compassion. Our lives reflect our leader, in our case, Jesus of Nazareth. Following him means being like him.

At Joe Biden's inauguration three Januarys ago, young Catholic poet Amanda Gorman recited her beautiful poem 'The hill we climb.' In her closing lines, she called on people to be a light, to show each other the way. There is always light, she said, "if only we are brave enough to see it; if only we are brave enough to be it."

Jesus is the light of the world. To follow him is to walk in his light. To not just see it but to be it. What light guides you? Who do you follow? ■