

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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10th September 2023
23rd 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

Tue 9:00am Dromara

Wed 7:30pm Leitrim

Fri 7:30pm Dromara



ANNIVERSARIES

LEITRIM

Sat 9th Winnie Ward
Wed 13th John O'Hare (*Backaderry*)
Annie Grant
Sat 16th Patsy Malone
Mary Catherine & Seamus Doyle
Owen Kelly,
John & Kathleen McMullan
& Deceased Family Members

GARGORY

Sun 10th Josephine King

DROMARA

Sun 10th Susan Darby, Joe McCann
& Deceased Family Members
Fri 15th Peter Greenan (*Castlewellan*)
& Deceased Family Relatives
Sun 17th Barney, Cassie & Pat Cunningham
Roisin & Peter Ward
Pat & John Gordon

SVdP: Dromara 077 3883 8191
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact:
P Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections **Dromara** **Drumgooland**
Parish £455 £890

Thank you for your contributions.

Dromara Parish Council Meeting
Mon 11th Sept 8pm St Michael's Hall

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Óisín Daniel McCabe, and
Enda Paul McAnulty



Volunteers Needed!

Every church would benefit from more volunteers, there are many roles. Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Collector, Counter, Choir, Cleaning the Chapel, Decoration of the Altar. Please consider stepping forward, a volunteer is better than a conscript. Thanks to the few who have volunteered, ask a friend, sometimes that helps you step forward as well.

Altar Servers

If any Server no longer wants to serve, please let me know. New Servers will be trained over the coming weeks.

Whist Drive

Whist Drive starts again in St Michael's Hall, Finnis on **Tue 12th Sept** at 8pm sharp. Please support.

NI Blood Transfusion Service

Blood donation sessions
Fri 15th Sept 12:30 - 4pm & 5 - 7pm
The Lodge, Castlewellan
Bookings only, on 08085 534 653

Sunday Message

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 10 September 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

WHERE IS THE LOVE?

MT 18:15-20

Some years ago, hip-hop group, The Black Eyed Peas, released a single called "Where is the love?"

*People killin', people dyin'
Children hurt and you hear them cryin'
Can you practice what you preach?
Or would you turn the other cheek?
Father, Father, Father help us
Send some guidance from above
'Cause people got me, got me questionin'
Where is the love?*

It is a commentary on the hatred in our world, each verse ending with the question, "Where is the love?"

That song is 20 years old but it could have been written in any year of any decade. It's a question I ask when I see Putin's military invade a peaceful neighbour, and how overt racism is once again on the rise. A question I ask when I observe the vitriol that floods social media, and how religious zealots in countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia persecute young women and men seeking freedom and human rights. It's a question I ask when I read that the rich are getting ever richer while more and more people have to turn to food banks to survive. Where is the love?

Look at St Paul's words in today's second reading: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. All the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not kill; You shall not steal; You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this single command, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that it why it is the answer to every one of the commandments."

It's something Jesus says in a more practical way in today's Gospel. He reminds Christians that we must never turn a blind eye to anything that hurts another or is damaging to the community. To really love another means sometimes having to say and do difficult things. It means speaking candidly and honestly, even at the risk of losing the friendship. It means sometimes having to show tough love. How well do you love? ■



REFLECT

One of the heroes of World War II was an RAF pilot called Group Captain Leonard Cheshire. He took part in D-Day, receiving the Victoria Cross for bravery. After the war, he wanted to do something to make the world a better place.

Cheshire owned a country estate, and one day, in 1948, he was approached by a man called Arthur Dykes, who told him he had cancer and asked if he could park his caravan on Cheshire's property while he recovered. When Cheshire discovered that Arthur was terminally ill, he took him into his own house instead. Leonard Cheshire did his best for the dying man but felt inadequate when it came to caring for him. He had no nursing experience and wasn't great with soothing words either, so he fell back on the two things he knew he could offer: companionship and availability.

During those last weeks of Arthur's life, a deep bond of friendship developed between them. Arthur was in great pain and found the long nights most difficult of all. So Captain Cheshire slept on a mattress on the floor near Arthur's bed. He gave Arthur a little hand bell and told him never to hesitate to ring it should he need anything. Cheshire would always be on call.

How reassuring it must have been for this dying man to know he had a friend and companion to the very end.

Soon after Arthur's funeral, Leonard Cheshire read a book a friend sent him about the Catholic Church, and on Christmas Eve 1948, Cheshire became a Catholic.

Meanwhile, he began to take others into his house and to care for them. In early 1949, eight patients were staying at his house. Six months later, there were 28. And the numbers continued to grow.

In 1959 he married Sue Ryder, also a noted Catholic humanitarian, and they dedicated the rest of their lives to the care of others. By the time he died in 1992, Leonard Cheshire had left a string of homes dedicated to the sick and disabled.

Why did Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, a decorated war hero with the world at his feet, do what he did? The answer is love.

Listen again to St Paul: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that it why it is the answer to every one of the commandments."

We might think we can't do much individually to create a more just and loving world. But that didn't put Leonard Cheshire off. His small act led to something wonderful, like a little seed that blossoms into a mighty tree. Where is the love? Here it is. It starts with you and me. ■

LEARN

As Christians, we have a responsibility for each other. We have a duty to point out each other's wrongdoing, and to do all we can to promote forgiveness and reconciliation

True love hurts sometimes

Love of neighbour is a mark of the Christian

PRAY

It's not easy to gently challenge somebody or point out their faults. Pray for the strength to take the loving course of action in your dealings with others.

DO

How do you respond when arguments or disputes break out? Are you a peacemaker?