

15 MAY 2022

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



NEW COMMANDMENT, NEW COVENANT

(JOHN 13:31-35)

Marble relief of the Last Supper, on the altar of the Basilica di Santa Maria Auxiliatrice, Rome

In the Gospel according to John, there is no account of the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper as we find in the versions of the Synoptic writers Mark, Matthew and Luke. The Eucharistic text is that of the Feeding of the Crowds. At John's Last Supper scene, the symbolic act is the washing of the disciples' feet.

In the other accounts, Jesus talks about the new covenant. Part of the covenant ritual was the imposing of commandments and, in our gospel text today, Jesus tells the disciples that he is giving them a new commandment, which suggests the idea of a new covenant. This instruction will demand a great deal of those who accept the new relationship with God – it is to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them – but the message is directed also at those reading or listening to the Gospel.

God will be glorified in the crucifixion of Jesus, where God's love for the world will be finally revealed and Jesus will leave his disciples in the form that they have known him up to now. However, their being his disciples will continue, and the sign of this will be their love for one another. This will be the best witness to those among whom they live. ■

REFLECT

Easter is the time when we are invited to reflect on our actual relationship with the risen Jesus. For the rest of the church's year, we are presented with Jesus' ministry and can draw lessons from that, but the Gospel of John can be more difficult, as it makes demands on us personally. At the Paschal vigil, we are asked to declare what we believe, and this can be a rather simple thing to do, to answer some questions. But when we are told that our relationship with Jesus will require some personal examination of ourselves, and possibly subsequent

change, this can be a lot more demanding, even threatening. This is not a matter of how we behave, but of the person we are, our attitude to Jesus and to each other.

During the Last Supper in John's account, Jesus says to those at table with him, "I call you friends." In one of the themes of the Fourth Gospel, this means that his disciples' training is complete, and today's reading represents an important step in that process – the giving of the new commandment, which is a sign of the new covenant between God, Jesus and the disciples. If we are to be true disciples,

then we have to take this teaching of Jesus seriously.

The history of the church can make it difficult for people to accept the message of Jesus. We have the persecution and burning of those whose opinions do not square with official doctrine; there are religious wars and bitter divisions between Christian denominations. Perhaps we might reflect on what witness we ourselves are giving today and that Jesus is not giving us advice, but a commandment. ■

LEARN

There is no institution of the Eucharist in John's account of the Last Supper:

Jesus' self-giving is expressed there in his washing of the disciples' feet.

The giving of the new commandment forms part of the making of the new covenant.

It is the disciples' relationship with one another which will be the most effective sign of their belief in Jesus.

DO

Are you at odds with any other disciple in your community? Think about what you can do to sort it out, in light of the teaching of Jesus.

SAY

By this love, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

(see John 13:35)

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762
Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

5th Sunday of Easter – 15th May 2022

Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Weekend masses

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

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 14th Deceased Members of McElroy Family
Wed 18th Betty Fegan; Catherine Love
Sat 21st Nora McEvoy
Jim McAnulty (Backaderry) and
Deceased Family Relatives

Gargory

Sun 15th Gerry, Anne, Peter, Patsy, Mary Owens

Dromara

Sun 15th Annie Gordon (MM)
Patrick McEvoy
Fri 20th Nuala Davies
James and Mary McKay (Levalleyreagh)
Sun 22nd Michael Reavey
Mary Ann and Seamus Lundy

Dechomet

Sat 21st Susan Greeran

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

Gargory immediately after 9am mass

Dromara 12 noon Leitrim 3pm Dechomet 5pm

The day works well due to the many volunteers who help with parking of cars; collectors; readers, etc. If you can help in any way, please step forward. Parking for the less abled will be reserved as follows: Finnis and Leitrim - church car parks Dechomet - front of the church (Closkelt Road). Please co-operate with those who are generous enough to assist with the parking. Please do not park in a way that blocks a private entrance. A collection will be taken up at each service towards the cost of maintaining the cemeteries.

Collections

Parish

Dromara

£450

Drumgooland

£560

Trócaire collections £1,744 during May.

Thank you to all who have made donations. In order to receive matched funding, all donations must be returned by Sun 22nd May. If you wish to write a cheque, please make it payable to 'Parish of Dromara' or 'Parish of Drumgooland', as this makes it easier for Trócaire.

First Communion

Sat 21st May 11am St Matthew's Magheramayo

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Cróchán Matthews

Congratulations to Conor McAlerney and Shannon Kelly who were married recently

Prayer before exams

God, our Father be with me as I take this exam.
Keep my mind alert and my memory sharp.
Calm my nerves and help me concentrate.
I know that You walk with me, guiding my path and inspiring my heart.
I pray that I feel your presence and that your friendship would soften the pressure I feel.
I pray that I will do my best in this exam and go on to new things with You.
Thank You for your peace and your love in my life.
Thank You for your kindness and care for me.

Amen.

Lough Derg 2022

One Day Retreats: May, Aug & September

Three Day Pilgrimages: Jun, Jul & Aug

Quiet Day: Fri 9th Sept

Pilgrim Path: Sat 21st May; Wed 31st Aug &

Mon 12th Sept

Further information from the Lough Derg Office:

+0353 (0) 71 9861518

info@loughderg.org

www.loughderg.org