

20 FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday Message

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

SHOW WHAT KIND OF GOD YOU BELIEVE IN!

(LUKE 6:27-38)

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus continues to instruct his disciples and the wider group. He tells them (and ourselves) to “love your enemies”.

This verb is not an emotional term, but has the sense of wishing the best for the other person in a disinterested way, without any thought of personal advantage. This is the reverse of the perhaps usual reaction of wishing some form of revenge on someone who does not like us or has tried to do us harm. The love which Luke presents Jesus speaking about is more a matter of attitude, not emotional involvement.

We find in this extract Luke’s version of the Golden Rule: “Treat others as you would like them to treat you.” The wider reading suggests that we should act as God does. As children often resemble their parents, disciples of Jesus should aim at being “children of the Most High”, so that other people may see in them and their attitude and treatment of others the kind of God in whom they say they believe.

This God, Jesus says, is “compassionate” or “merciful” and acts positively towards people who are apparently undeserving. If those listening to Jesus put into practice his teachings, God will reward them to an overflowing degree: God will not weigh out the amount to be given, unlike a careful merchant. But God will take our own measuring into account. ■

REFLECT

In Luke’s account of Jesus’ teaching, we are told to be “compassionate” or “merciful” rather than “perfect” as in Matthew’s account. The theme of compassion or mercy runs through Luke’s version of the Jesus story, which is perhaps one of the reasons why so many people describe it as their favourite Gospel.

But this section is very demanding: Jesus requires that we go beyond our normal, human reactions and look at others in a different light. Wishing the best for someone we instinctively don’t like, or who has done us harm, is a tall order: it will be demonstrated later in the Gospel narrative, when Jesus prays for forgiveness for those who are crucifying him.

We often hear talk about evangelisation. This can be understood as presenting the Christian faith to an audience of people who do not believe in terms of preaching, media programmes and other forms of publicity. As we see from Luke’s Acts of the Apostles, this can be very effective. However, our Gospel passage today may be suggesting that there is another form of spreading the word: it might be summed up as attraction rather than promotion. The faith is illustrated or manifested by the type of people who believers actually are. It is this which can arouse interest in other people, who decide “those Christians have something special and I want some of it!” If other people see in us some likeness of the God we believe in, they may well start to wonder and inquire what we have: but first, we must be “children of the Most High”. ■

SAY

Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

(Luke 6:31)

LEARN

The Greek New Testament word for ‘love’ in today’s reading is not an emotional term:

It means to desire the best for the other, without hoping for any advantage for the person doing the wishing.

Compassion or mercy are terms frequently occurring in the Gospel according to Luke.



DO

Look at yourself in the mirror: see yourself as a son or daughter of the Most High. Don’t be afraid, but resolve again to live up to your calling.



Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradgooland.org

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 20th February 2022

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

Recently deceased

Kevin Gregory, Ballymackilreiny Road

Rita Sexton, Rathfriland

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 19th Margaret McElroy; Patrick Malone
Wed 23rd Eileen Cunningham
Patrick, Elizabeth and Teresa McCartan

Dromara

Sun 20th Mary McBride (Downpatrick)
Philip Lundy and Deceased Members of
Lundy, McGrillen and Cauley Families
Pete and Kathleen Gilmore
Sun 27th Mae and Dan Flynn

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Popular historian Una Walsh will deliver a talk by Zoom on the history of *The 16 Townlands of Finnis Parish* on Tue 1st Mar at 7:30pm.

Una has worked tirelessly to restore townland names to former prominence.

To take part contact M McNeill on:

Phone: 077 0801 7219

Email: mariemcneill@hotmail.co.uk

Protecting and caring for each other

There has been no update around the social distance guidelines in church. We are due a briefing next week and I will communicate that guidance to you when I receive it.

The 1m social distance will remain until the end of February at least. Face coverings have not been a legal requirement in church since July 2021, but it has been church policy that they are strongly encouraged.

There is a lot of infection in the local community so please care for each other. Please wear a face covering, if you can, do so. If you have symptoms or suspect you have symptoms, please do not come to mass at that time.

St Michael's Hall

The Hall has not been in use since March 2020.

There are a number of steps needed before it can be used.

The cold water needs to be treated and flushed, this will be done soon.

The Hall needs a deep clean. A firm has been booked to do so.

All Users will need to agree to use the Hall safely and to protect each other, both within your Group and the Group that will use it after you.

When cleaning is completed, a meeting will be held for interested Users to agree a plan that works for everyone.

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£276	£414

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Lauren Frances Cunningham