

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 16 April 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

JOHN 20:19-31



Today's Gospel tells the beautiful story of how Thomas the Doubter became Thomas the Believer.

It's the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus' crucifixion, and his disciples have gathered together behind locked doors. They're afraid that those who crucified Jesus will come looking for them, too, so they bolt the door. Suddenly, Jesus appears before them. They are flabbergasted and bewildered, but Jesus shows them his wounds, and they know it is the Lord.

One of the disciples, Thomas, was absent that evening, so when they tell him the extraordinary news that Jesus is alive, he doesn't believe them. He knows that Jesus had been put to death during Holy Week, so how could he be alive?

A week later, the disciples are in the locked room again, and this time Thomas is with them. Once more, Jesus appears. He knows what Thomas has said about him, so he offers him an invitation. "Put your finger here; see my hands. Put your hand into my side. Doubt no more but believe."

Thomas doesn't need to touch Jesus. Seeing Jesus with his own eyes is enough. He falls on his knees and gives the most wonderful profession of faith in all of history: "My Lord and my God!"

In reply, Jesus offers words of comfort and praise for all future believers: "You believe because you can see me; happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." ■

### PRAY

Pray especially for people who hide behind closed doors of doubt and uncertainty. Ask the Lord to increase their faith.

### DO

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives his followers a task, a commission. He tells them that just as the Father sent him, he is now sending them out to be his witnesses before the whole world. We are his witnesses in our time and place. Speak to someone this week about your faith.

### SAY

"My Lord and my God."

### LEARN

The gift of faith is meant to be shared. It is not a private thing. Just as the disciples left their locked room to proclaim the Gospel, so are we called to proclaim the Gospel every day, not just by the words we speak but by the example of our lives.



## REFLECT

Jesus of Nazareth never ran for office or a position of power, but he had a vision for how people should live and what the world should be like. Remember when he stood up in the synagogue in Nazareth at the beginning of his ministry. He gave what amounted to a mission statement: "I have come to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, give sight to the blind, and announce the year of God's favour." He spoke of a God of mercy and love; even more importantly, Jesus practiced what he preached.

He said that the kingdom of God is one of justice, peace, and love and that his followers will be judged based on how just and compassionate they are.

We see that vision put into practice in today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. It is early in the life of the Church, and St Luke paints a pen picture of the new Christian community. They are united as one family. They pray together; they share what they have in common; they look after the weaker members. They support each other. They are one.

Of course, divisions begin to emerge before long, as St Paul's letters demonstrate, but today's first reading offers a glimpse of how things were, how things might be, and how they should be. A glimpse of the kingdom of God in action.

In today's Gospel, the risen Jesus gives his followers a task, a commission. He tells them that just as the Father sent him, he is now sending them out to be his witnesses before the world. They are to live as he lived and do as he did, putting his vision into practice. It's about building the kind of Easter community St Luke describes, about putting into concrete practice the peace Jesus promises in today's Gospel.

If we lived like that, there would be no doubting Thomases, nobody would need to question belief in God or the point of religion because everyone would see the beauty of faith in Christ Jesus and the extraordinary, life-changing difference it makes. ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Second Sunday of Easter

### 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

### Cemetery Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May

### Recently deceased

Margaret Gilmore, Belfast  
Barbara Gordon, Drumkeeragh Rd, Dromara

### Anniversaries

#### Dechomet

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Patrick Hugh & Elizabeth Doyle  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Patrick & Mary Doyle (Dechomet)  
Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Rooney & Deceased Family Members  
John Sweeney

#### Leitrim

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Hugh McAleenan (MM)  
John & Agnes Boyd  
Anna McAnulty  
Patsy McAnulty  
Margaret & Teresa Murphy  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> James Malone (MM)  
Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Morgan

#### Dromara

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Gerry & Cissie O'Hare (Finnis)  
Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Harry & Sarah McAllister

The **Well** is a community wellness hub which supports a range of services to support mental health and emotional wellbeing. Their aim is to provide the right support to the right person at the right time.

T: (028) 4176 7272

E: [hi@thewellhub.net](mailto:hi@thewellhub.net)

W: [www.thewellhub.net](http://www.thewellhub.net)

### Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage

The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun. Anyone wishing to attend please leave your name and contact details in the Parish Office. Further details will be available in the coming weeks.

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£1,303	£1,689
Priest	£190	£785
Easter	£759	£1,622

### Trócaire

Please return any donations, boxes or envelopes, to the churches over the coming weeks. If you wish to make a donation by cheque, please make the cheque out to the parish (*either Dromara or Drumgooland*) as it makes it easier for Trócaire if one transfer comes from the diocese.

The **new boxes of envelopes** began 9<sup>th</sup> April. If anyone wishes to receive a box please let me know. If you wish to pay by standing order or direct debit, please email and the forms will be sent to you. Thank You to all who support the parishes and myself so generously.

### First Holy Communion

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> - May St Mary's - 11am  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup> - May St Michael's - 11am  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> - May St Matthew's - 11am

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish  
Kieran Anton McEvoy

### NI Blood Transfusion Service

Blood donation session Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Apr  
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan  
12:30pm - 4pm & 5pm - 7:30pm  
To book an appointment call 08085 534 653

**Anam Cara Armagh**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Apr at 7:15pm in the The Armagh City Hotel. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online support service.

Contact us on [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)  
or 028 95213120 for any queries.

**SVDP:** Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067

**Safeguarding Contact:** P Carville 07789917741