

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

26<sup>th</sup> 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

**Sick & housebound will be attended this week**

**First Saturday Devotions Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Oct**  
after mass in Dechomet

## Recently deceased

*Belle Miskelly, Carryduff, formerly Finnis*  
*Brendan McAvoy, Mayobridge*



## ANNIVERSARIES

2024 Anniversary Book is now open

### LEITRIM

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup>** Cissie Kelly (MM)

Teresa & Stanley Wright & Deceased  
Members of O'Hare Family (*Backaderry*)

Patricia Quail

Barney & Joey McAnulty

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup>** John McCrickard

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Anthony Pat McEvoy

### DROMARA

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup>** Seamus McEvoy

### DECHOMET

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Bernard McElroy

### GARGORY

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>** Deceased Members of McAtee Family

## *Masses for Recently Deceased*

*Dechomet Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Nov*

*Leitrim Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Nov*

*Dromara Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Nov*

**Gargory Altar Rota Oct – Marion**

## **Peter Morgan's Cottage**

Return of the Music Sessions Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7:30 pm.

**SVP:** Dromara 07738838191/Drumgooland 07825419067

**Safeguarding Contact:** P Carville 07789917741

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£372	£832

*Thank you for your contributions.*

**Church Door Collection for Hospice 7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup> Oct**

## **Parish Council Meetings**

**Drumgooland Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct**

**Dromara Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct**

## **Cleaning Leitrim Chapel**

Anyone who is willing to help clean the chapel please come to a meeting **in the Parochial House** on **Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7:30pm**. If you are not free to attend but willing to help, please let me know.

## **New Eucharistic Ministers**

Anyone who is interested in becoming an Eucharistic Minister in any of the churches please come to a meeting **in the Parochial House** on **Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7:30pm**. This meeting will give people a chance to learn about the role and then choose if you want to be involved.

## **Confirmation & First Communion Dates**

I have received no communication from Archbishop Martin about Confirmation for 2024. When this is received, I will meet the Schools and set the dates for the Sacraments to be celebrated in 2024.

## **Dromore Diocesan Historical Society**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct at 7pm**

**in St Peter's Hall, Lurgan.**

After the formal business of Reports and Election of Officers, there will be a presentation at 7:30pm by

Jim Conway and Noel McCann entitled: "*St Peter's Chapel: its history & heritage*"

This will be held in St Peter's Chapel.

Everyone welcome.

## **Public Meeting Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct at 7pm**

**in the Lagan Park Centre, Dromara,**

with representatives from various agencies and Lisburn City Council, to discuss the recent floods and what can possibly be done in the future, and also to help form a resilience group to help in times of extreme weather. Please come along and see if you can help out in your community.

# Sunday Message

26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 1 October 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



## JUST SAY YES

Mt 21:28-32

In today's Gospel Jesus has a confrontation with the chief priests and the leaders of the people. He criticises them for being "yes men," whose fine words are not matched by fine deeds. They are great at making promises but not very good at living up to them.

Jesus uses a parable to make his point. A man has two sons. He asks both of them to work in his vineyard. The first says a blunt "no," but afterwards thinks better of it and changes his mind. The second says, "Certainly, sir," but then does not go at all. "Which of the two," Jesus asks his listeners, "did his father's will?" The answer is obvious; only one son was obedient to his father.

Jesus then explains the meaning of the parable. The son who refused but then repented represents the tax collectors and prostitutes who listened to the preaching of John the Baptist, and accepted it. The other son represents the chief priests and the leaders of the people who did not listen to or accept John's preaching. They still did not listen to John even after seeing for themselves the wonderful transformation his preaching had brought about in the lives of the tax collectors and prostitutes.

The chief priests and religious leaders liked to boast about their goodness and their fidelity to God. They were big into outward piety and making the proper religious sounds but it was all only lip service because it was not matched by their actions. They failed to show true obedience to God.

There is a danger that sometimes we too can be like the chief priests and leaders of the people. We can say "yes" to God but be far away from him in our hearts. We can promise to live in obedience to him but fail to practice what we promise. Today's Gospel challenges us to look at how well we live out every day what we proclaim in church. It reminds us of our need for constant conversion. ■

### LEARN

The proof of our faith is in our living of it

The Christian is called to constant conversion

It is never too late to say "yes" to God

### SAY

"Lord, help me to honour you not only with my lips but by my actions. Amen."

### REFLECT

Ever since Eleanor Roosevelt more than 80 years ago, American First Ladies typically promote a cause or launch a campaign to which they commit the prestige of their office. In the 1960s, Ladybird Johnson focused on cleaning up the nation's highways; Betty Ford focused on substance abuse, Michelle Obama on education and healthy eating.

Nancy Reagan decided her focus would be the war on drugs. At the time, drug addiction was destroying numerous lives, as it continues to do. So she spearheaded a campaign that had a simple, snappy, easy to remember title: Just Say No. Her message to those tempted by illicit drugs was: Just say no. The campaign (and others like it) wasn't a huge success. Vulnerable people needed practical help and support in order to be able to just say no. They needed more than words or slogans or expensive advertising campaigns.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers they must not just say yes, but must back it up with concrete actions. He is telling us that if we are serious about following him, we must live the faith we profess. Words, no matter how pious, are not enough. We must go from church to world to transform the world by the kind of lives we live, because we are going to be judged by our deeds rather than by our words.

This makes our task all the more difficult, because we know it's easy to talk the talk; it's much harder to walk the walk.

As Christians, we mustn't just say yes. We must just show it. We must live it. ■

### DO

Think about the major promises you have made in your life – the baptismal promises that were made on your behalf, the marriage or religious vows you professed, the commitments you have entered into. How well have you kept them? What do you need to do to be more faithful to them?

### PRAY

To follow Christ faithfully is not easy. Pray for the strength to be faithful to your baptismal promises.