

I love sculptures. When I come across them, I sometimes stop and look at and touch these incredible works of art. I am in awe, too, of the sculptors' skills. Whether they work in metal, wood or other media, their creativity and deftness of touch are something special.

Over the years, I have heard sculptors speak about their craft. One thing I hear time and again is a sculptor saying something like, "When I look at the piece of raw metal/wood in front of me, I know that the image of the sculpture is inside there. My job is to release it." Wow! I love that.

The sculptor sees the completed article right from the start. Others would only see a lump of wood or a chunk of metal, perhaps seeing it as useless or ugly. Sculptors know their job is to cut away the pieces that obscure the sculpture's true form. With saw, hammer and chisel, with blow torch and anvil, they cut away, melt, mould and reshape what seems formless to reveal what was already hidden inside of it. When they do this, what they reveal to the world is wonderful.

I believe in the inherent worth of all people. I believe that inside of each of us dwells a Spirit of beauty and goodness. I know that many of us don't feel that about ourselves some of the time. I also know that many of us don't feel that about other people a lot of the time. Still, I believe it to be true. And I invite you to consider this as true, too.

I also believe it to be true that we all can do with a bit of sculpting as we grow through life. At times, this may be because we have become a bit formless – we may feel lost or out of shape, not knowing who we really are or where we're going.

Other times, we may have become a shape that is not our true, good and beautiful selves. We may have become angry or bitter, or frustrated. We may have become hateful.

Perhaps, as we grow, we never fully become that beautiful, perfect creature we are at our very core. The 'me' that we are in the world is always in need of sculpting. And that isn't such a bad thing. It is what it is: a constant invitation to allow a chisel to sculpt us and shape us as we grow up and grow older. Our simple 'yes' to this reality and our consent to enabling a sculpting to occur will bring us on a journey of constant self-discovery and re-discovery.

DIFFICULT TASK

Like working with wood or metal, sculpting the person can create heat, sparks, or splinters. It can feel like a difficult task. It can even feel a bit like losing at the start. Committing to the sculpting of ourselves means that we are committing to letting go of parts of us that, while unnecessary in the long run, might have become part of how we live our lives. We can hold on to them like a safety blanket and letting go can be a challenge.

But consolation can be found in the words Jesus spoke so often: "Be not afraid." The reality is that there is a beautiful image within us just waiting to be revealed. Pause here for a moment, particularly if you have difficulty believing you are truly beautiful inside and out. Pause now and consider that within you, just waiting to be revealed, is a beautiful work of art – and that work of art is you! ■



Today's readings

Is 53:10-11
Heb 4:14-16
Mk 10:35-45

GOD'S WORD TODAY

In the Gospel James and John ask Jesus for thrones of privilege and power in the Kingdom. Along with Peter, the two brothers are part of Jesus' inner core of disciples.

Despite this, their discipleship is flawed by naked ambition.

Still, Jesus is patient with them. Using biblical images, he tries to get them to understand the implications of what they have requested. He asks them if they can drink the "cup" that he must drink and undergo the "baptism" he faces. In the Bible the "cup" is often a symbol of the suffering and death that lie ahead for a person. By "baptism" Jesus is talking about the suffering that awaits him in Jerusalem.

Jesus asks them if they're willing to share his fate. They insist they are, but they don't know what they're saying. Jesus tells them it is his father who will decide their places in the Kingdom.

The brothers' request irritates the other apostles. They also are full of ambition and are annoyed at the brothers' effort to pull a fast one on them. Jesus contrasts how leadership is to be exercised in the Kingdom of God with the request made by James and John. Gentile rulers "lord it over" their people, Jesus says, and so abuse their power that they become "tyrants." This is not how it is to be in the community of Jesus' disciples. Leaders in his community must become servants of all.

17 October 2021 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Year B**

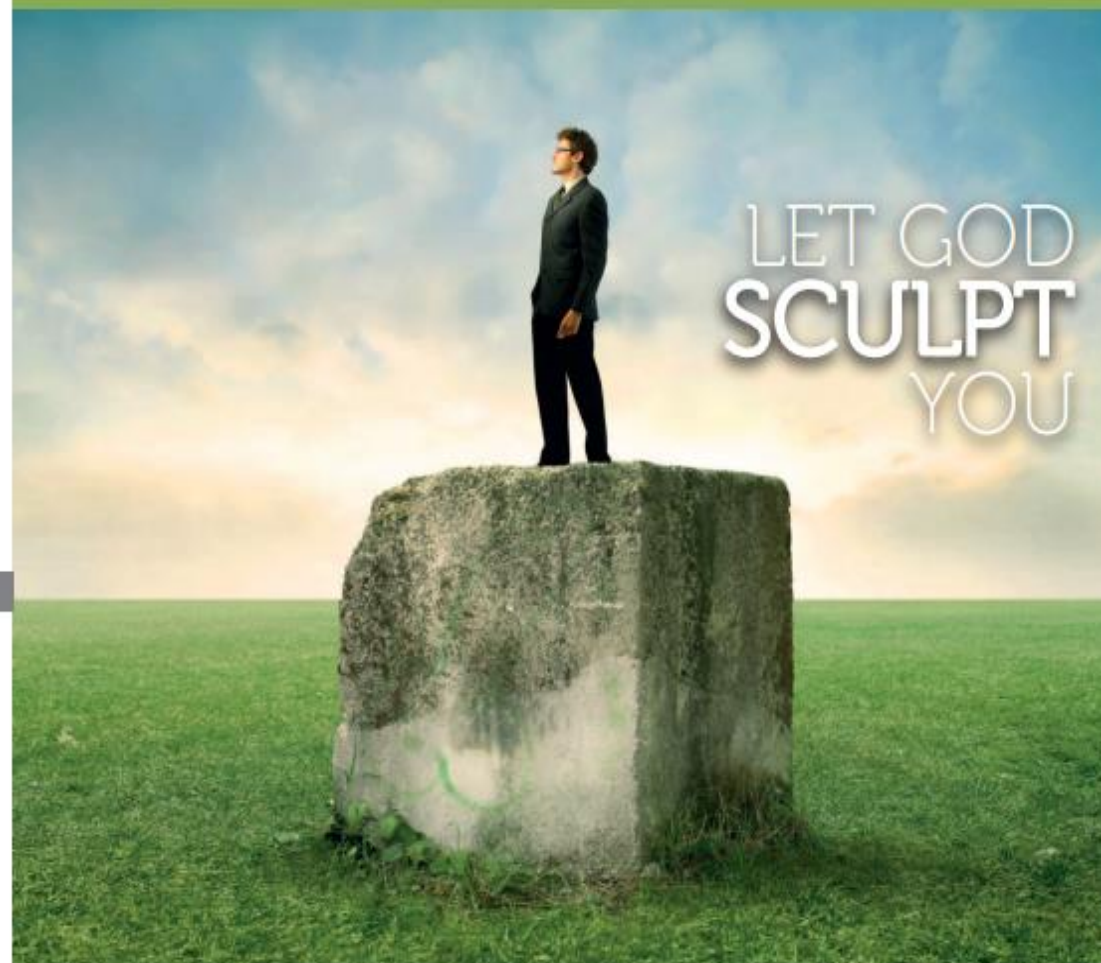
Psalter Week 1

Stu(space)

SERIES: GOD IN THE EVERYDAY

Season colour: **GREEN**

In this series, **Jim Deeds** finds evidence of the divine in the ordinary and extraordinary events of every day.



Inside of each of us dwells a spirit of beauty and of goodness that just needs to be revealed.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17th October 2021

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	

November Dead Lists are available at the back of the churches

Recently deceased John Mageean, Belfast, formerly Dree Hill, Finnis
Theresa McNally (nee McAleese), Craigavon

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 16 th	Michelle Doyle
Mon 18 th	Matt and Kathleen Ward and Deceased Family Members
Sat 23 rd	Eileen Fitzpatrick

Leitrim

Sat 16 th	Marc McAnulty Thomas and Rose Armstrong and daughter Ann Murray
Wed 20 th	Willie McCartan (Ballymaginthy)

Dromara

Sun 17 th	Peter, Catherine, James and Peter McKenny John, Sarah, Peter and Marian Rogan
Sat 23 rd	11am Harry McKay (MM)
Sun 24 th	Michael Rice

Collections

Dromara	£192	£134
Drumgooland	£718	£395

Southern Area Hospice - a door collection will be held after all masses on 23rd/24th Oct. Any person who wishes to put a donation in an envelope marked *Hospice* can leave the envelope in the parochial house or in the basket at the church door.

Do This in Memory – preparation for First Communion on 23rd/24th Oct. Rosary Beads will be blessed for the children and those at home

St Vincent de Paul Finnis

Dromara Christmas Appeal 2021

Due to ongoing COVID restrictions we have setup an Amazon Wish List for anyone who wishes to purchase a Christmas present for a local child to receive this Christmas. Any support no matter how small is greatly appreciated and will go directly to support local families in need of support during these difficult times. The Wish List can be found at:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1RE T2PL08GHHT?ref_=wl_share

If you have any difficulties or if you would prefer to make a donation towards heating oil/ food hampers, please contact Mary on 07738838191. Many thanks for your continued support - St Vincent de Paul Finnis, Dromara.

Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

Financial Contributions to the Parishes

Thank you to everyone who has been so generous to the parishes and myself over the past year and more. The donations by standing order, online, handed into the parochial house and placed in the baskets at the back of the churches, have been gratefully received. Thankfully both parishes have been able to meet their outgoings this year. The bank balance for both parishes on 30 Sept 21 was Dromara £121,386, Drumgooland £168,247. The new cemetery in Dromara, the proposed costings have been submitted to the Diocesan Finance Council. If approval is received the project can proceed to tender.

The proposed car park at Gargory is on hold. Each parish is financially separate from the other, the donation goes to the parish that you support.

Synodal Pathway In these days, the Catholic Church throughout the world and in Ireland is beginning a series of conversations about what God wants of his people at this time. These conversations are often referred to as a Synodal Process. “Synodal” comes from a Greek word which means “walking together”. Pope Francis is inviting us to “to journey together” as Church and has opened the Universal Synod in Rome on 9th Oct 2021. In Dromore Diocese on Sat 16th Oct, Archbishop Eamon Martin will celebrate the 6:00pm Vigil Mass in Newry Cathedral. www.catholicbishops.ie/synod to learn more about the Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland. www.synod.va to learn more about the worldwide Synod