

## SEEING

We are told that “Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth’... then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see’” (Luke 10:21, 23). There is so much in the world, and in our lives, that we can be grateful for – if only we have the eyes to see it. Certainly, the world and our lives are not perfect; there is brokenness, pain, suffering, sorrow, worry, and hardship. But there is also beauty, compassion, love, hope, and help – we just need to refocus our seeing onto these things.

## ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Some would say it’s easy to be thankful when things are going well, but much harder when things are not so well, and there’s an element of truth in that. However, having a thankful outlook does not depend on circumstance, it depends on us.

This is something my sister is teaching her two young boys who are in primary school. Ever since they were little, they have always prayed together before going to bed. They pray the Our Father and Hail Mary; they pray for family and friends, naming each person they want to ask God to bless (and sometimes this can be a long list!); they ask God to help them if something is worrying them; and always, they name three things from the day that has just passed that they are thankful for. It’s as honest as “thank you God for friends to play with”, or grandad reading stories to them, or eating spaghetti at dinner, or having movie night with mummy. The important thing is that my sister is instilling in her

children an attitude of gratitude, and as Pope Francis said “the best prayer is that of gratitude, that of praise”.

There are other moments when this attitude of thanks has struck me. I remember visiting with a friend of mine, and as she opened her post she came across a letter from the tax office. It was a tax rebate, and when she took the cheque out of the envelope and looked at it, her immediate response was to look up, blow a kiss heavenward, and whisper “thank you”.

I think of the many novenas to Our Mother of Perpetual Help that take place across the country, and of the hundreds of prayers of thanksgivings that are written, alongside the prayers of petition. People remembering to take a moment to thank our heavenly Father for the many things he does for each of us. As the novena prayer says: “O God, our Creator, we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature; our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your image and likeness and for giving us this earth to use and develop, to respect and cherish.”

There are so many things each of us has to be thankful for. Take a moment now to gently close your eyes and think of just one. Then open your eyes – truly open them – and send a smile heavenward.

## I THANK YOU

In the words of medieval theologian, Meister Eckhart: “if the only prayer you say in your life is ‘thank you’ it will be enough.” Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said “I thank you”; let us do the same. ■

# Stu( )space

SERIES: JUST THREE WORDS

Season colour: **WHITE**

In this series, **Clare Gilmore** explores the sheer depth contained in ‘just three words’.



I  
THANK  
YOU



Today's readings

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Acts 4:8-12  
1 Jn 3:1-2  
Jn 10:11-18

John gives us in this discourse his clearest teaching on the meaning of Jesus' death. Jesus lays down his life for the sheep. This is the language of sacrifice. Usually in a sacrifice, the human priest slays a sheep, offers some of its blood and consumes its flesh in a sacred meal in the hope of finding forgiveness. Here Jesus the priest is laying down his life for the sheep. He will take it up again (verses 17-18). He acts with sovereign freedom: no one takes Jesus' life from him. This will be spelled out during his trial when he asserts that Pilate has “no power” over him. Yet Jesus' power to lay down his life is also the power to take

it up again. It is a power which has been entrusted to him from the Father. The NT normally speaks of the Resurrection as an act of power of the Father exercised through the Spirit. The shepherd's task is to gather other sheep into the sheep-fold (10:16). This verse should be read in the light of the evangelist's commentary on Caiaphas' prophecy that one man should die rather than the whole people perish.

One of the first things a parent teaches their child, is to say “please” and “thank you”. When it comes to Bible passages about ‘thank you’, the first one that immediately jumps into my mind is the story of the ten lepers that were cured, but only one returned to say “thank you”. However, our three words this week – I thank you – are actually spoken by Jesus, and they are addressed to his Father in heaven (Luke 10:21).

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Charlie Rooney and Deceased  
Family Members  
Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Mary Burns  
Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Paddy and Phil Turley

#### Leitrim

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Clare McCrickard  
Wed 28<sup>th</sup> James Joseph O'Hare  
Sat 1<sup>st</sup> John and Kate Kelly  
Elaine Morgan

### Dromara Cemetery

Any person who is interested in taking on the care and maintenance of the cemetery and church grounds please contact Fr Peter.

### Cemetery Service

There will be no cemetery gatherings this year. A service of blessing and remembrance will be streamed on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 12 noon. All graves will be blessed at a different time prior to the service.

### Blood Donation Session

Baptist Church Hall, Ballynahinch, Thur 6<sup>th</sup> May, between 1:00pm to 4:00pm & 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Note that donation sessions are by appointment only; to book an appointment, please call 08085 534 653 between 10:00am and 4:30pm.

We welcome into Dromara Parish Isla Jamison

### Collections Parish

Dromara £ 418  
Drumgooland £ 1209

### St Matthew's Magheramayo

#### Uniform Swap Shop

St Matthew's Magheramayo are looking for good quality uniform items you no longer need, to run a uniform swap shop at school on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> May, in line with COVID guidelines.

All money raised from the sale of these uniform items will go towards new books for the school children.

Please leave any good condition unneeded uniform items over to the school by Wed 28<sup>th</sup> April. Please have items washed and placed in a plastic bag labelled with sizes. Many thanks for your continued support.

### Fireside Quiz

Thank you to the organisers of the Quiz and all who took part. £58 was raised, which, under matched funding, means Trócaire will receive £116 from your generosity.

### Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and need a helping hand?  
Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

### Weekend masses

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

### Weekday masses as usual

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

### Full Churches

All four masses did reach capacity at the weekend. This meant that some people were not able to get in. Whilst this is disappointing to those who arrive, it is part of the way that safety to attend can be protected. If the notice is on the door "full church" please do not enter.

### Dates for the Diary

#### Confirmations

Tue 18<sup>th</sup> May - St Mary's PS 6:00pm Leitrim  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> May - St Michael's PS 6:00pm Finnis  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> May - St Matthew's PS 6:00pm  
Gargory, and 7:30pm Leitrim

### First Holy Communions

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Jun - St Michael's PS 11:00am Finnis  
Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Jun - St Matthew's PS 10:00am Gargory  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Jun - St Mary's PS 10:30am and  
12 noon Leitrim

Each child will be allocated one seat only, parents are responsible for choosing the people who are safe to sit in that seat.