

When his friends returned home, Newman continued his travels but fell sick and was forced to return to England. During the long holiday, Newman wrote a lot of poetry. One of these poems, 'The Pillar and the Cloud', became better known by its opening words when it was sung as the hymn 'Lead Kindly Light' many years later. After many years of searching and writing, Newman joined many of his former friends who had already entered the Catholic Church (1845). His conversion meant he had to leave his beloved Oxford, but his other great desire was to be ordained. During another long visit to Rome, he was ordained priest and with some of his companions established the English Oratory, which later found a home in Birmingham. Newman was a major figure in the English Catholic Church in the latter half of the 19th century. He spent some years in Dublin founding the Catholic University. He was made a cardinal for his services to the Church in 1879. He was canonised in 2019.

THE MEANING OF THE HYMN

The hymn has three verses. It is a prayer for divine guidance. When he composed it, Newman was very much in search of light. As a theologian, he had set himself to examine closely the foundations of the Anglican Church, a work that would take more than a decade more. Newman was a sensitive man. Leaving the church of his birth would entail great sorrow, especially as he had to leave behind close and dear friends. His last sermon preached as an Anglican was called 'The Parting of Friends'. That time had not yet arrived when he wrote 'Lead Kindly Light' but he was alone and far from home, and this sense of loneliness can be detected in the opening verse:

"Lead, kindly Light, amidst the encircling gloom,
lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home.
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me."

The 'kindly light' for which he prays is the light of God and he may be quoting here from one of Christianity's oldest hymns, sung in the evening office of some churches. Newman's friend John Keeble translated it as "Hail, gladdening Light, of God's pure glory poured".

In the second verse, he reflects back on his past and does battle with his sense of pride. He is aware that he often avoided submitting to God's guidance and preferred to put himself forward. As a brilliant academic, Newman was aware that he had a glittering future ahead of him, which he here calls "the garish day" but now he prays for divine guidance:

"I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
shouldst lead me on.
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!"

The final verse is confident that God will continue to guide him, wherever the path may lead. At the end of the long night, day will break:

"So long Thy power hath blest me,
sure it still will lead me on.
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent,
till the night is gone,
and with the morn those angel faces smile,
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile." ■

series ends



Today's readings

Gen 22:1-18
Rom 8:31-34
Mk 9: 2-10

he and his disciples will have entered the darkness of his final days, culminating in his crucifixion on Calvary.

In this brief episode at the top of the mountain, the sudden burst of light that makes his clothes "more dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them" is a prelude to the burst of light in the tomb on Easter morning. Moses and Elijah also experienced moments of divine revelation on another holy mountain, Sinai or Horeb. Peter wants this moment to last, and offers to build three shelters for Jesus and his guests, but it is over in a short time. Our moments of insight usually only last a very short time, but they are usually enough to make us see things differently.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Mountains are places where you see things differently, the whole world of the valley below spread out before you. Although the gospel does not identify the mountain in this story, it is usually believed to be Tabor, a round hill that often figures in the Old Testament and full of memories for Israel that stands above the fertile Jezreel Valley. Jesus is making his final journey to Jerusalem. Within about ten days or so,

Stu()space

SERIES: SING ONCE: PRAY TWICE.

Season colour: VIOLET

Hymns are an important part of Catholic worship. We will look at some of our familiar hymns. Musical versions are available on YouTube.



LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

Written as a poem by St John Henry Newman during a sea voyage in the Mediterranean during which he struggled with poor health and loneliness, it became popular as a hymn. Its prayer for light and guidance might also be said to sum up the life of the man who wrote it – a search for God's guidance at a difficult time.

THE STORY OF THE HYMN

As a young Anglican clergyman and academic, John Henry Newman (1801-1890) took off in December 1832 for a long voyage around the Mediterranean with some friends. Newman was at that time beginning to explore the Catholic roots of the Anglican faith. They visited Rome and other places. Newman was deeply impressed by Rome, but Italian Catholicism did not impress him.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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2nd Sunday of Lent – 28th February 2021

Recently deceased Margaret McElroy, Dromara Road, Leitrim

Please remember these anniversaries in your prayers

Sat 27th Willie, Sadie and Sean Lavery, Ballela, and Deceased Family Members
Eileen Burns
Sun 28th Mae and Dan Flynn
Paschal King
Sat 6th Barney O'Hare

Lourdes 59 Club

7th Nov No. 44 Lorraine Rice
14th Nov No. 13 Maria Gribben
21st Nov No. 47 Dymphna Ward
28th Nov No. 32 Number Available
5th Dec No. 18 D & G McCarney
12th Dec No. 59 Number Available
19th Dec No. 23 Mary McKay
26th Dec No. 6 Sinead Ward
2nd Jan No. 37 Number Available
9th Jan No. 53 Ryan Doyle
16th Jan No. 27 M. & M. McKay
23rd Jan No. 56 Ethna McKay
30th Jan No. 42 Number Available

We welcome into Dromara Parish Isla Austin

Maggie O'Hare, Old Railway Close

It was with much sadness we learned of the passing of our most senior citizen, Maggie O'Hare, RIP.

Having reached the wonderful age of 101½ years, it was certainly the end of an era.

Maggie was known and loved by young and old, her cheerful disposition, her kindness and her ready wit made it a great pleasure to spend even a short time in her company.

In Maggie's early years it would have been a struggle leaving home in 1939 and going overseas to train in the nursing profession, but this was a career which brought her caring qualities into practice which remained with her throughout her long life.

Always interested in events of our community, her memory, until recent years, was amazing and she could clearly recall school days, her attendance at the blessing of Leitrim Grotto in 1929, and her many childhood friends.

Her special mass on 19th October 2019 to celebrate her 100th birthday was a day of great joy in the parish, memories of that day will live long with all who were in attendance and later her acknowledgement of all who greeted her at her armchair.

May Maggie's gentle soul, rest in peace.

We express sincere sympathy to Pauline, PJ, Leo, Pat and their extended families.

A parishioner

Weekend Masses: Sat 6:00pm Sun 9:00am

Weekday Masses: Mon 9:00am Tue 9:00am
Wed 7:30pm Fri 7:30pm

Public celebration of mass will remain suspended for the next month. The review will take place on 18th March. Churches may or may not be open for Easter.

I will be in Dromara carpark on Sun 28th Feb 10:00-11:00am, if anyone wants to return donations to the parish.

Trócaire Boxes

Trócaire did deliver boxes to the parish. It is difficult to distribute them at this time. The boxes will be left in the chapels if anyone wants to take one home.

This year Trócaire will receive matched funding from the UK government for the Lenten Campaign, basically your donation is doubled.

Insurance rebates

Allianz, the parish insurers, have given Covid-19 rebates on the 2020 premiums

	<u>Rebate</u>	<u>Premium</u>
Dromara	£171.99	£4305.53
Drumgooland	£336.25	£8406.51