

# Sunday Message

33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year C • 13 November 2022 • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

### THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

LUKE 21:5-19

Nouriel Roubini

It was *The New York Times* that labelled him Dr Doom in a 2008 profile that identified Nouriel Roubini as an unlikely hero of the global financial meltdown of that year.

In 2008, in an address to the IMF, he predicted that the US economy was at risk of a housing bust and deep recession that would have dire consequences for the entire world.

Others predicted it, too, but no one was as accurate as Roubini. He was ridiculed for it, but he was right. He read the signs of the times correctly.

In February 2008, he wrote a paper called '12 Steps To Financial Disaster', in which he described precisely how the crisis would unfold. "I said two major broker-dealers are going to go bust, and there won't be any major independent broker-dealer left in the next two years. It took seven months for Bear Stearns and Lehman to be gone. It's not a fuzzy case of me saying there would be a financial crisis. I was very specific.

"You look at history, you look at political data, you look at models, you look at comparisons," Roubini says. "There were tens of different signals that would eventually lead to a tipping point. The fact that there would be a crisis was totally obvious to me."

Nouriel Roubini was able to read the signs of the times. The signs were all there, but other economists and politicians either could not read them or didn't want to read them.

Today's Gospel is all about reading the signs of the times. We always read it at the end of the church's liturgical year.

Jesus describes the end times, when the Messiah will come in final judgement, and tells his disciples to be on the alert for it. He uses the fig tree as an image of how to read the signs of the times. Unlike most trees in Israel which are evergreen, the fig tree is not. It loses its leaves in autumn and only puts out new ones in late spring. When people see the new leaves, they know that summer isn't far off. In the same way, Jesus says, when people witness the dramatic events he describes in the Gospel, they will know the end times are close.

We need always to be on the alert, wide awake, ready. There are two aspects to reading the signs of the times. The first is to be attentive to what's going on in the world around us. The second is to be always prepared for when our end comes because we don't know when that will happen. Like Nouriel Roubini, we need to read the signs of the times. ■

#### SAY

Lord, I thank you for the gift of faith. Help me to live the faith I profess. Amen.

#### PRAY

It is not easy to witness to the Gospel in the increasingly secular world in which we live. Pray for yourself and your parish community for the strength to be faithful followers of Jesus.

#### REFLECT

"Sign of the times" is a phrase strongly associated with Vatican II. It was taken to mean that the church should listen to and learn from the world around it. It should learn to read the "sign(s) of the times" and respond to them.

What signs of the times might we need to be attentive to today in our families, our country, our church? Perhaps there is a family member in distress whose plight we might not have noticed. What issues or trends might we need to see in our families?

In our country, there are so many people in distress, families struggling to make ends meet, mired in debt, whose credit is maxed out and who are dreading Christmas. How sensitive are we as a society to people in need and the demands of justice?

In our church, we also need to read the signs of the times. It's something Pope John XXIII did. He saw the need for reform in the church even when most others didn't. And so he called Vatican II. It's why Pope Francis has initiated the synodal process currently underway in the universal church.

What might the signs of the times be saying to our church today as priest numbers fall, as allegiance to the faith crumbles, and the church's influence wanes? How should we respond as the People of God?

Nouriel Roubini read the signs of the times correctly and was ridiculed for it. But he was proved right in the end.

As the people of God, we also must be equally attentive to the signs of the times and respond to them as best we can. ■

#### LEARN

Christians witness to the faith at all times and in all places.

God is always faithful to his people.

The Christian is happy to suffer for the sake of the Kingdom.

#### DO

Look at the world around you. How good are we at reading the signs of the times?

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**  
33<sup>rd</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  
**Tues** 9:00am Dromara  
**Wed** 7:30pm Leitrim  
**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

## Recently deceased

Betty McGreevy, Castlewellan, formerly Magheramayo  
Sheila Keenan, Newry

## Anniversaries

(2023 Anniversary Book now available)

### Leitrim

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup>** Kieran McCrickard  
Rita O'Hare  
P.D. Cunningham  
James and Esther O'Rourke  
**Wed 16<sup>th</sup>** James and Ellen O'Hare  
Patrick and Susan Rice  
Michael and Margaret McCartan,  
Ballydrummond, and Deceased  
Family Members  
John Joe Malone  
Anne McAnulty  
Bernard and Mary Jane Cunningham  
Hugh and Sarah McAnulty

### Gargory

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup>** Patsy Quinn  
**Sun 20<sup>th</sup>** James and Doreen Gribben

### Dromara

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup>** Mary McEvoy and Bridget Gorman

## November Dead List

The names will be remembered at all masses during November. All envelopes are opened. £1,050 was received in donations.

Thank you to all who came to the masses for the recently deceased and to those who helped organise them and helped them run smoothly.

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£1312	£1685
Priest	£561	£1355
Hospice	£406	£1452

**Do This In Memory** - 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> November  
P4 children are asked to bring a leaf or a card with the names of a relative who has died.

**Congratulations to** Aileen Mackin and Cathal McNamee who were married recently

## Festive Coffee Morning Fundraiser

In aid of Action Cancer and Dromara & Drumgooland Lourdes Fund.  
Finnis Hall, Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 11:30am – 3:30pm  
Christmas Crafts and Raffle. Everyone Welcome!

## Service of Remembrance

The Southern Trust is hosting a Special Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for parents and families who have been bereaved through pregnancy loss, or the death of a baby, child or young person in Daisy Hill Hospital or the wider community. The service will take place on Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Nov at 3:00pm in Newry Town Hall.

## Support the Benedictine Community

Buy your Christmas gifts at the shop of Holy Cross Abbey, 119 Kilbroney Road, Rostrevor, Co. Down, BT34 3BN  
Christmas Cards, Candles and Soaps made by the monks, books and a range of different gifts.  
Shop opens 9-11am & 2.30-5pm  
[www.benedictinemonks.co.uk](http://www.benedictinemonks.co.uk)

## SVP

A little help at the right time can make a big difference.  
SVP can provide practical help and support, in strict confidence.  
If you are struggling with food/heating bills, etc., please contact us:  
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067  
Dromara 077 3883 8191

**Safeguarding** P Carville 077 8991 7741