

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

29<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

## ANNIVERSARIES

2024 Anniversary Book is now open

### LEITRIM

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup>** John Smith

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>** Patsy, Jeannette & James Savage  
Annie B Morgan  
& Deceased Family Members

### DROMARA

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>** Edward McBride (*Kilclief*)  
Michael Rice

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup>** Belle Miskelly (MM)

### DECHOMET

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>** Peter Joseph Kelly (*Derryneil*)  
& Deceased Family Members  
John Christopher Morgan

### *November Dead Lists*

are available at the church doors

### *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*

### **SVP**

Dromara 077 3883 8191  
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

### **Safeguarding Contact**

Patricia Carville 077 8991 7741

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £507 £861

Family Care £213 £409

*Thank you for your contributions.*

*We Welcome into Drumgooland Parish  
Fíadh Rose Éithne Ward*

**Volunteers needed** for Readers, Collectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Cleaners, Singers, etc. Thanks to those who have volunteered, it is never too late to add your name.

The dates for **Confirmation** and **First Communion** have been agreed, the schools have published the dates.

**Youth Choir** restarts **Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 6:30-7pm.**

New members are welcome  
as well as others invited back.

### **BINGO**

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group' on **Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct at 3pm** for a great afternoon of Bingo in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm. Good fun, refreshments and a raffle, so please come along and show your support for the school.

**Rosary at the Windy Gap Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 8pm**

### **Safeguarding survey for survivors of abuse**

The Irish Bishops', Religious and Missionaries have commissioned consultants, RSM Ireland, to undertake a review of child safeguarding in the Catholic Church. RSM would like to hear from survivors who have disclosed abuse within the last twenty years, to see what needs to be improved.

For more information please contact:  
[survivor.consultation@rsmireland.ie](mailto:survivor.consultation@rsmireland.ie)

The Diocese of Dromore has published the **Report of the Second Review of Child Safeguarding Practice in the Diocese.** A full copy of the Review Report is available on the Dromore Diocesan website  
[www.dmorediocese.org](http://www.dmorediocese.org)

# Sunday Message

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

THE WORD

Year A • 22 October 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



## TAXING QUESTIONS

MT 22:15-21

Jesus' opponents in today's Gospel are a coalition of religious leaders (the Pharisees) and the supporters of the unpopular royal family who controlled parts of the Holy Land (the Herodians).

The challenge to Jesus is set up as though it were a well-intentioned request for guidance on a difficult matter made to a teacher who is recognised for his plain speaking. The question is about paying taxes to the Romans. But it is a trap. It only allows for a 'yes' or 'no' answer. If Jesus says it is permissible to pay taxes, he risks losing popular support. After all, these taxes were imposed by an occupying power which used the money to maintain its army and administration.

If he says it is not, then he is a dangerous political revolutionary who must be denounced to the authorities.

Jesus sees through the game these 'hypocrites' are playing and responds with a master stroke. He asks to see the coin used to pay the tax. Jesus and his disciples probably did not carry money simply because they didn't have any. The coin was a Roman coin, bearing the image and inscription of the emperor. Strictly speaking, observant Jews like the Pharisees should have avoided carrying anything, including a coin, with the image of a human being as it contravened the commandment forbidding idolatry. It was even worse to bring one into the temple precincts. Jesus' answer defeats his critics and exposes them as compromised by their support for the imperial power. ■

### LEARN

Our primary allegiance is to God and God's values

The Christian puts God first in everything

The Christian uses the goods of this world to further God's kingdom

### DO

Think about your attitude to money. How important is it to you? Do you put it before everything else?

### SAY

"Lord, help me to put you first always. Help me to use all I have to give glory to you. Amen."

### PRAY

Pray for those in financial distress. Pray for those throughout our world who are caught up in poverty.



### REFLECT

**M**oney, money, money  
Must be funny  
In the rich man's world.  
Ah, all the things I could do  
If I had a little money  
It's a rich man's world.

These lines from a song by Swedish super group, Abba, neatly describe humanity's fixation with money. Money is the answer to all life's problems, the key to happiness...

That's why the internet is full of get rich quick schemes; why we love 'rags to riches' stories of self-made billionaires like Jeff Bezos of Amazon; why we cling to the faint hope of winning the lottery or discovering an elderly rich relative. Finding ways to generate wealth is what

keeps the international monetary system going.

Even those of us with no desire to be featured in *Fortune* magazine or the *Wall Street Journal* can get distracted by money. Seeking happiness, security, stability, we become grasping, hung up on our possessions, preoccupied with material things. Money becomes our focus.

This is understandable, since the world of commerce and advertising and Instagram promotes envy and the desire to have at least as much as our neighbours. We can become attached to money without even realising it. But Jesus challenges this way of thinking. The Gospel invites us, in the words of Pope Francis in *Gaudete et*

*Exsultate*, "to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Usually the rich feel secure in their wealth, and think that, if that wealth is threatened, the whole meaning of their earthly life can collapse." But wealth ensures nothing. Francis writes. Wealth makes it difficult for us to have room in our hearts for what really matters.

As Christians, we know that everything we have comes from God. All is gift. We depend on God at every moment of every day. We must live in such a way that we do not allow money or material things to supersede our relationship with God and our commitment to God's kingdom. ■