

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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30th July 2023

17th 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

*Recently deceased Seamus McCartan,
Canada, formerly Ballymagreehn*

ANNIVERSARIES

DECHOMET

Sat 29th Marcella Doyle

LEITRIM

Sat 29th Meta & Jackie Mooney
Eileen McAleenan

Wed 2nd Kevin Mooney

Sat 5th Cowan Family

GARGORY

Sun 30th Mick McGreevy

DROMARA

Sun 30th Hugh Pat McEvoy (*Artana*)
Edward, Catherine,
Eamon & Shiela Lundy

Fri 4th Sean McKay

Sun 5th David & Mary Ellen McKay
(*Dree*)

Harry McNeill

SVDP: Dromara 077 38838191
Drumgooland 078 25419067

Safeguarding Contact:
P Carville 07789917741

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£669	£633

Drumgooland Parish Council
Meeting Mon 31st July at 8pm

If any person is not able to attend mass and would like me to call, please let me know.

Gargory Altar Rota
Aug - Roseleen & Anne

NEWRY CATHEDRAL
Guided Tours

Wed 16th Aug 2pm

Wed 30th Aug 7pm

Each tour will take approx. 90 minutes.
Please meet at the main door of the Cathedral. You will hear the story of the building of the Cathedral, 1825-1829, and of the later extensions.

The history of its stained glass, marble altars, sculptures and magnificent mosaics will also be explained.

There is no charge for these tours.

LOUGH DERG

One Day Retreat

Sat 19th Aug

Tue 22nd Aug

Sun 27th Aug

Adm €45 Booking essential

Lakeshore Pilgrimage
Sat 30th Sept

Adm €25 Booking essential

info@loughderg.org

+353 (0) 71 9861518

Sunday Message

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR

THE WORD

Year A • 30 July 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

(MATTHEW 13: 44-52)



You might have noticed over the past few weeks, that the teachings of Jesus have revolved around explaining what exactly the kingdom of heaven really is.

We heard last week of how the kingdom will be challenged by negative forces in the world, forces of evil and destruction. Therefore, the kingdom as defined by Jesus, needs to be protected by us believers. The importance of the presence of God on earth is reflected in today's gospel as it is likened to treasure buried in a field. On finding the treasure, the farmer hides it again and buys the field to care for it. The kingdom is like a fine pearl or a catch of quality fish. All deserve our protection and respect.

As you can see, parables are used in abundance today. Writer and former priest Michael Harding says that 'a story is the most beautiful way of bearing witness to the world.'

You can see from the three parables used last week and the three used today, that Jesus beautifully presents us with the importance of the kingdom of heaven in our world and our lives. The parables reassert the significant relationship between God and his people. God shows us his love and tenderness. We respond by honouring the treasure that is the kingdom of heaven. We do so through our prayers and actions. ■

SAY

'Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness.' (St. Augustine)

LEARN

'The whole Church is apostolic, in that she remains, through the successors of St. Peter and the other apostles, in communion of faith and life with her origin; and in that she is sent out into the whole world. All members of the Church share in this mission, though in various ways. The Christian vocation is, of its nature, a vocation to the apostolate as well..... to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the earth.'

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 863)

DO

Identify the treasures in your life, the people you hold dear to your heart. How much time and energy do you give to them in terms of your love and generosity?



REFLECT

A man walks into a department store in Dublin to buy a romantic gift for his wife, as her birthday was approaching. He walks up to the Chanel perfume counter and asks to see the range of perfume on offer. The sales assistant showed him the first bottle, priced 75 euro. "No, that's too expensive, do you have anything else?" said the man. The polite assistant produced a smaller bottle priced 50 euro. "You'll have to go again, it's still out of my price range," said the man. Indeed the sales assistant duly obliged and reached down to the bottom shelf where she produced

a 20 euro bottle of perfume that probably wouldn't be the best quality. The man replied, "Listen, I need you to show me something really cheap." So the assistant reached under the counter and showed him a mirror.

It's important to identify who or what your treasure is in life. For some it's their children or spouse. For others, it's their work and I think in particular of doctors, nurses, social workers and carers who treasure their patients and clients. In identifying your treasure in life, you can then go forward and reward that treasure with your love and care and generosity.

The kind of treasure being referred to in today's gospel is the treasure that is the kingdom of heaven. So how do we respond to this unique gift in our lives? Are we reluctant to invest time and energy in fostering a relationship with God? Do we talk to our children about the importance of prayer and belief in God during moments of difficulty and thanksgiving in their lives? When Jesus speaks to the disciples today, he wants them to acknowledge this wonderful treasure given to them freely by God. In embracing the kingdom of heaven, we show a generous and loving heart to the world. ■