

Sunday Message

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 27 November 2022 • Season Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1



WAIT UP!

MATTHEW 24:37-44

Today we begin the season of Advent, the great season of waiting. We are waiting for the coming of the Lord at Christmas; we wait expectedly for the one who saves us.

During this season, we contemplate two different comings of Jesus into our world. The first refers to his birth as our Saviour more than 2,000 years ago. The second refers to his future return in glory as judge at the end of time. It is only from the Fourth Sunday of Advent that the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas moves into centre stage.

This season is a reminder to prepare not just to welcome the Lord at Christmas but for an even more wondrous coming – of the Lord at the end time. Advent challenges us to consider how we are preparing for the Lord's arrival. What is it we are waiting for? Are we living day-to-day in such a way that we are ready when he comes?

We all know that waiting of any kind is difficult today. We live in a culture of wanting things now. Having to wait at a red light annoys us; being stuck in a barely moving queue frustrates us. If our internet connection isn't working, we get angry. Like instant messaging and instant coffee, we demand instant results, and we want them now.

It can be the same with our relationships. If my relationship with someone is in difficulty, I can be tempted to give up on it. If things start to go wrong for me personally, I can feel like quitting or even giving up on life itself.

It's the same with our relationship with God and the church. When God is slow to answer our prayers or doesn't seem to answer them at all, we can be tempted to stop praying or give up on God altogether. The scandals in the church can leave us angry, disillusioned, and inclined to walk away.

Patience or stick-at-it-ness is challenging in so many ways and areas of life. Advent challenges this thinking; it is about patient, hopeful waiting. One of the most striking things about Jesus was his patience. People resisted his message; many opposed him; even his closest friends misunderstood him, but he didn't give up on them. Time and again, he is patient with them. Remember how Peter denied him three times, yet Jesus forgave him and welcomed him back.

It's how God has always treated God's people. In the Bible, the people of Israel kept turning their backs on God, letting God down. But God never gave up on them; over and over again, God forgave them. In the end, God even sent his Son among them to save them, to show them how to live. ■

REFLECT

So as we begin this season of Advent, think about how good you are at waiting. This season offers us an assurance and a challenge.

First, it reminds us of something wonderfully consoling: God never gives us on us; God is ceaselessly patient with us. Even when we let him down; even when we turn our backs on God; no matter what we do or don't do – God forgives us, puts up with us, never abandons us. God is constantly calling us into relationship with him.

Second, this season challenges us to practise patience in every dimension of our lives. Slow down, take time to notice things. Learn to be a little more patient with yourself and with others, too. Do something to build up anticipation as you journey through this season: dress a Jesse tree, use an Advent calendar, say a daily Advent prayer. Let the season build momentum.

Advent calls us to persevere on our faith journey, never to give up, for God is faithful to God's promises. ■

LEARN

Advent marks the beginning of the church's new year.

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the Lord's coming at Christmas. It also prepares us for the second coming of Christ at the end of time.

The Christian is always ready for the coming of the Lord.

DO

Make some extra time for prayer each day during the season of Advent.

Talk to your children or grandchildren (or a young relative) about the meaning of Advent.

Make an Advent wreath.



SAY

Come, Lord Jesus.

PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you live in such a way that you will always be ready for his coming.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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27th November 2022

First Sunday of Advent

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

Masses for Christmas 2022

	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Gargory	7:00pm	9:00am
Dromara	7:00pm	11:00am
Dechomet	8:15pm	-
Leitrim	9:30pm	10:00am

Recently deceased Donal Rice, Magheralone
 Peter Devlin, formerly Cabra

Anniversaries (2023 Anniversary Book now available)

Dechomet

Sat 26th Christy Morgan (MM)
 Sat 3rd Margaret Gilmore
 William James Doyle

Leitrim

Sat 26th Ryan Doyle, Hugh and Roseann Doyle
 Gerard McElroy
 Sat 3rd Fr Lionel Murray
 Joe Ward
 Charles, Brigid, Jim, Jerome and
 Phelim Shields

Gargory

Sun 27th Felix McCartan and Deceased Family
 Members
 Sun 4th John King
 Alfie King

Dromara

Sun 27th Michael McKey
 Fri 2nd Hugh and Hugh Cormac Smith
 Sun 4th Isabella and Hugh Lavery
 Laura Armstrong

Memory Cards and photos

Please lift your cards from in front of the altars, they are precious and I do not want any of them misplaced

Safeguarding contact: P Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections Parish	Dromara £610	Drumgooland £629
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Festive Coffee Morning Fundraiser in aid of Action Cancer and Dromara & Drumgooland Lourdes Fund, Finnis Hall, Sun 27th Nov, 11:30am – 3:30pm. Christmas Crafts and Raffle. Everyone Welcome!

Christmas Bingo Join the 'Friends of St Michael's Finnis Parents Group' for a Festive Bingo on Sun 4th Dec at 3pm in the Parish Hall. Doors open 2:30pm. Good fun, refreshments and great raffle prizes to be won, so please come along and show your support for the school.

Choir Rehearsals for Christmas Masses St Mary's Church, Dechomet

After 6pm Sat Masses

Leitrim Chapel

Tues 6th Dec 7-8pm & Tues 13th Dec 7-8pm
 All new members would be very welcome

Gargory Altar Society – Dec Carmel & Geraldine
Leitrim Cleaners - Fri 2nd Bridie's Team

SVP Dromara Christmas Appeal 2022

An Amazon Wish List had been setup for anyone who wishes to purchase a present for a local child to receive this Christmas. Any support, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated and will go directly to local families in need of support during these difficult times. The Wish List can be found at:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/l/1RET2PL08GHHT?ref_=wl_share

If you have any difficulties, or if you would prefer to make a donation towards heating oil/food hampers, please contact Mary on 078 5478 0974. Many thanks for your continued support, St Vincent de Paul Finnis, Dromara.

Simon Community - helping the homelessness

If you wish to support, or know more about their work visit www.SimonCommunity.org, tel 9023282

SVP - If you are struggling with food/heating bills, etc., please contact us:
 Drumgooland 078 2541 9067
 Dromara 077 3883 8191