

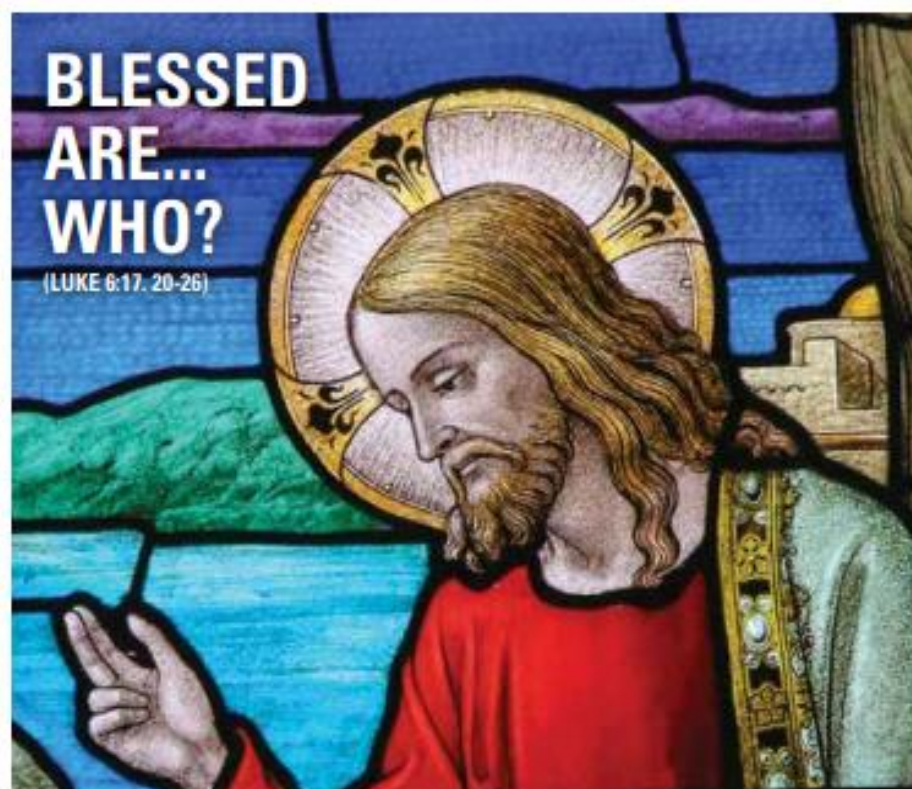
13 FEBRUARY 2022

# Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Stained glass window depicting Jesus, in the Cathedral of St Rumbold in Mechelen, Belgium

**In Luke's Gospel account, before any important event or decision, Jesus withdraws for a period of prayer. At the beginning of our episode today, Jesus comes down from the mountain where he had spent the night in intense communication with God before selecting his Twelve special disciples.**

In Matthew's account, aware of the Jewish symbolism, Jesus is presented as going up the mountain, as Moses went up to receive the Law. Luke is writing for a Gentile audience and shows Jesus coming down the mountain with the Twelve and teaching, "on level ground", a great crowd of disciples and others from the wider region who had come to hear him and be cured. Jesus here is more the prophet and wise teacher than the lawgiver like Moses.

Luke's version of Jesus' sermon contains only four Beatitudes and these are accompanied by four warnings ("alas!") to those who do not take the message to heart. His account is very much focussed on the material and practical aspects of Jesus' teaching. Whereas Matthew talks about "the poor in spirit", here Jesus speaks directly to "you who are poor". This concern for people who are at the bottom level of society, in all sorts of ways, is a major theme in the Third Gospel.

The evangelist brings in the notion of being rejected, which was introduced in Simeon's prophecy to Mary. God accepts those whom most people in society do not. To be popular may be a sign that an acknowledged prophet may not be bringing the true word of God. ■

## LEARN

Jesus' Sermon in Luke's account is situated on "level ground", the *plain*, rather than on the *mount*.

Luke has four Beatitudes, instead of Matthew's eight: he also includes four Woes.

Luke concentrates on people's material situation, rather than their internal spiritual dispositions.

## REFLECT

**L**uke keeps the focus of Jesus' teaching on those who are materially poor. He does not spiritualise by talking about "the poor in spirit", but concentrates on those who are objectively badly off in financial and social terms. This theme is one which we will encounter often in our Gospel readings at the Eucharist.

The notion of being rejected is one which Luke introduced in his overture to the Gospel, the Infancy Narrative, where Simeon predicted that this would happen to Jesus. Throughout the narrative, we find that, for one reason or another, people decide not to accept the challenge of Jesus' teachings and this finds its ultimate expression in his being crucified.

The priest and writer Michael Hollings once remarked that Catholics, and by implication Christians in general, were perhaps influenced by the idea that going to church was a sign of respectability. This has been suggested as one of the reasons for the decline in attendance at Sunday services, especially among women. Being seen in the company, or at least the presence of apparently undesirable people may be something which may make some folk uncomfortable. This can include individuals who might seem not entitled to take part in public worship for social reasons.

Today's Gospel challenges us to examine our assumptions about other people. It also tells us that we should be concerned about those who are poor, hungry and in grief and to do what we can to help them. ■

## DO

Is there a St Vincent de Paul Society in your parish? If so, find out more about what they do. If not, think about setting one up.

## SAY

**Blessed is the person who has placed their trust in the Lord!**

(Psalm 39:5)

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### 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** Paschal Hawthorne,  
Castlewellan Road, Dromara  
Anne Owens, Newcastle

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Stella Doyle

#### Leitrim

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Fr Frank Lyons; Rita Murray; Patricia  
Savage and Seamus and Bridie Savage

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Maggie O'Hare

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Sinead Ward (MM); Cahal Ward  
John McKay

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Margaret McElroy; Patrick Malone

#### Dromara

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Pat and Marie King and Deceased Family  
Members

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Mary McBride (Downpatrick)  
Philip Lundy and Deceased Members of  
Lundy, McGrillen and Cauley Families  
Pete and Kathleen Gilmore

### Lourdes 59 Club Winners

25<sup>th</sup> Sept No. 53 Ryan Doyle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Oct No. 43 J.N. Dinsmore  
9<sup>th</sup> Oct No. No. 55 No winner  
16<sup>th</sup> Oct No. 22 No winner  
23<sup>rd</sup> Oct No. 19 Jos. Doyle  
30<sup>th</sup> Oct No. 17 Rooney Family  
6<sup>th</sup> Nov No. 19 Jos. Doyle  
13<sup>th</sup> Nov No. 56 Ethna McKay  
20<sup>th</sup> Nov No. 53 Ryan Doyle  
27<sup>th</sup> Nov No. 9 Louise Mackin  
4<sup>th</sup> Dec No. 47 Dymrna Ward  
11<sup>th</sup> Dec No. 38 Ann Kelly  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec No. 59 No winner  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec No. 18 D & G McCarney  
1<sup>st</sup> Jan No. 42 V & S Ward

### Date for the Diary

#### First Confession

St Mary's P5's Tue 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 7:30pm  
St Matthew's P4's Tue 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 7:30pm  
St Michael's P4's Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Mar 7:30pm  
St Mary's P4's Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 7:30pm

#### Confirmations

St Matthew's Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Apr 6pm  
St Mary's Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Apr 6pm  
St Michael's Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Apr 6pm

#### First Communion

St Mary's Sat 7<sup>th</sup> May 11am  
St Michael's Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May 11am  
St Matthew's Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May 11am

#### Cemetery Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

12noon Dromara 3pm Leitrim 5pm Dechomet

Hopefully all these plans will come about, but they will follow whatever guidelines exist at the time. The reality is that we never know when an outbreak of covid can hit. If I get covid new dates would have to be found.

#### Streaming of Masses

I am aware that recently the service has not connected at the start of mass and hence did not stream, or it has stopped during the mass. Whilst I apologise for the inconvenience it is beyond my capacity to resolve.

#### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish	£540	£1,181
Priest	£493	£1,398

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish Emily Carlin and Annie Morgan

#### Peter Morgan's Cottage

Popular historian Una Walsh will deliver a talk by Zoom on the history of *The 16 Townlands of Finnis Parish* on Tue 1<sup>st</sup> Mar at 7:30pm.

Una has worked tirelessly to restore townland names to former prominence.

To take part contact M McNeill on:

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