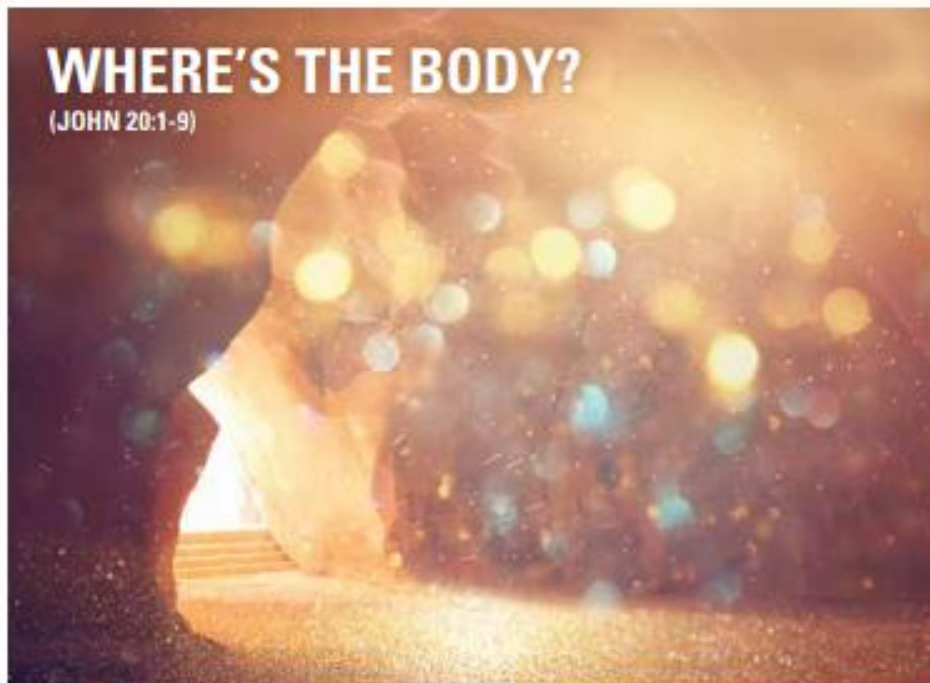


WHERE'S THE BODY?

(JOHN 20:1-9)



The narrative Gospel tradition presents Mary Magdalene as the first witness to the Resurrection.

We might note that the gospel accounts do not say that anyone actually saw Jesus emerge from the tomb. The women are the constant factor in the story of Jesus' journey of suffering. They witness the crucifixion and the burial; Mary Magdalene and others are mentioned in the various narratives of the discovery of the empty tomb.

The episode today recalls John's telling of Jesus' raising Lazarus to life, but there are important and significant differences in the two scenes. First of all, Lazarus' tomb is still sealed, but that of Jesus is open (leading to questions as to why: Mary does not conclude from the absence of the body that Jesus is risen). In the case of Jesus, his burial cloths are found on the ground and his faccloth rolled up in a separate place: Lazarus appears with his funeral sheets around him.

We might notice that the simple fact of the missing body does not inspire Simon Peter to faith. Peter may well be the leader of the disciples, but it is the one who is closest to Jesus in a relationship of love who understands what has actually happened. ■

SAY

This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad!
(Psalm 117:24)

DO

Make the sign of the cross privately with water; renew quietly your commitment to the person of Jesus.

LEARN

No one witnessed Jesus rising from the tomb.

The original witnesses come to believe through a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.

Mary Magdalene is the constant presence in the Resurrection narratives.

Easter is our opportunity to renew our faith and our commitment to Jesus and the teachings of the Gospel.



Christ and Mary Magdalene - relief from Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris

REFLECT

Sacred art can be very helpful in thinking about the mysteries of our faith. But sometimes it can offer too simplistic an understanding, especially of the Resurrection of Jesus. Apart from the Beloved Disciple, who stands at the origin of the tradition going back to John, no one comes to believe in the Resurrection simply through the fact that Jesus' tomb is found empty. Mary Magdalene tells Simon Peter and the others that someone has removed the body and she and her companions have no idea what has happened to it.

It is only through a personal encounter with the risen Jesus that people come to believe in the Resurrection. They have an experience which convinces them that Calvary and the cross were not the end of the story. Thus, they are witnesses to the Resurrection, rather than witnesses of the Resurrection. It is on their testimony that the preaching of the Gospel is based: the empty tomb is never advanced as evidence, because it is rather a consequence of what is being proclaimed.

Each Easter, we are invited to renew our faith in the risen Jesus and to affirm his

place in our lives. When we are asked, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ ... who was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead ... ?" we should not see our answer as simply a statement of fact, but rather as our annual commitment to our Christian faith and to the person of Jesus.

We are declaring that we are Jesus' disciples; that he is present to us in our daily life, that we are doing our best to live by his teachings and values, and that this is most present when we celebrate the Eucharist together. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762
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Easter Sunday – 17th April 2022

No mass Monday to Friday

If there are any emergency sick calls or deaths, please ring me on 079 6940 3762

Weekend masses

Sat 11:00am Leitrim
6:00pm Dechomet
7:30pm Leitrim

Sun 9:00am Gargory
11:00am Dromara

Recently deceased

Annie Gordon, Drumkeeragh Road
Julia McCann, Dree
Jim Fegan, Annaclone

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sun 17th Anna McAnulty
Sat 23rd 11am Nolene Hardy (MM)
Sat 23rd 7:30pm Clare McCrickard
Patsy McAnulty
Margaret Morgan

Dromara

Sun 17th Kathleen McMahon

Dechomet

Sat 23rd Charlie Rooney and Deceased
Family Members

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

Anam Cara Armagh, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wed 27th April at 7:15pm in the The Armagh City Hotel, Armagh, BT601E.

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online support service. Contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 028 95213120 for any queries.

Collections Parish	Dromara £1056	Drumgooland £812
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Ukraine collection now stands at £6,766

Trócaire boxes or donations can be returned from next weekend. This year Trócaire has received matched funding from the UK government, so your donation will be doubled.

Any cheques should be made to the *Parish of Dromara* or to the *Parish of Drumgooland*.

If anyone wishes to donate directly to Trócaire please visit www.trocaire.org or ring 0800 9121200.

If you are a taxpayer, please complete the gift aid form and return it with your donation.

Synodal Pathway

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Dromore Diocese Universal Synodal questions. We have received over 700 responses through online questionnaires, meetings, paper questionnaires, emails.

We would also like to thank all the Parishioners, Principals and Teachers who facilitated, supported and assisted people/students in any way to get the information to us.

The Dromore Diocesan Synodal Core Group (DSCG) are currently working through the responses and are planning to be in a position to share information by May.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers over the coming weeks as we continue to work through the information.

May the Holy Spirit guide us.

Lough Derg 2022

Pilgrimage season re-opens Sun 1st May

One Day Retreats: May, Aug & September

Three Day Pilgrimage: Jun, Jul & Aug

Quiet Days: Mon 9th May & Fri 9th Sept

Pilgrim Path: Wed 4th May; Sat 21st May; Wed 31st Aug; Mon 12th Sept

Further information from the Lough Derg Office:

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info@loughderg.org

www.loughderg.org