

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: [dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org](mailto:dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org) Web: [www.dromaradrumgooland.org](http://www.dromaradrumgooland.org)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## 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  
**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

*Cemetery Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May*

## *Recently Deceased*



## ANNIVERSARIES

### LEITRIM

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup>** Seamus, Bridie & Patricia Savage  
**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>** Francis & Margaret Smyth  
Patrick McCartan

### DROMARA

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup>** Mae & Dan Flynn  
Daniel, Mary & Liam Marmion  
& Deceased Family Members  
**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Margaret Mary Reavey MM**  
Pete & Kathleen Gilmore

### GARGORY

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>** Paschal King

## SVP

Dromara 077 3883 8191  
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

## Diocesan Safeguarding contact:

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329

Email: [safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

**Womens World Day of Prayer** will be held in Loughaghery Presbyterian Church on **Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Mar** at 8pm. All are welcome.

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £405 £719

*Thank you for continuing to support your parish*

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish  
Tiernán Patrick Owens*

## First Confessions

St Mary's Dechomet Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb  
St Matthew's Magheramayo Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Mar  
St Michael's Finnis Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Mar

## Do This in Memory

First Communion Preparation programme continues on **2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar**

The **Five Consecutive First Saturday** of the month devotions will continue on **Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar** in Dechomet, with confessions at 5:30pm, the 6pm Mass, followed by the Rosary and 15 minute meditation.

Along with receiving Holy Communion, everything is offered in reparation to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart for peace, as requested in Fatima. Confessions can be obtained within 20 days.

Blessing and reception of the brown scapular of Mount Carmel will be offered after Mass also. Leaflets will be available at the back of the church and scapulars will be provided.

This year's **Trócaire Lenten Appeal** highlights how climate change has affected the lives of those who live in Malawi. Any donation to Trócaire, small or large, sent through the parish, or directly to Trócaire is a life-changing gift.

## Gargory Altar Rota

**Mar** - Rosaleen & Anne

## Leitrim Cleaners

**Mar** - Bridie, Maura, Berni & Patricia

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • 25 February 2024 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 2



## PEAK EXPERIENCES

MARK 9:2-10

**We all have moments that stand out as special and that we never want to end. I remember being on holiday on Cape Clear Island, off County Cork, sitting with my mother, father and sister on a bench overlooking the harbour.**

It was a beautiful summer's day; the sea was calm, everything was so peaceful, and we felt so at one, that I experienced an incredible sense of joy. The four of us together with, for a little while, no concerns, no worries, no preoccupations. I didn't want it to end. It was a peak experience.

I remember being on a retreat many years ago, shortly before I took first vows. On the final day, the retreat master and I celebrated the sacrament of penance. I'd been to confession many times before, but this one was different. I had an overwhelming sense of God's closeness to me, of God loving me and forgiving me, an experience I never had before or since in its intensity. The tears flowed. It was a peak experience.

Peter, James and John have a peak experience in today's Gospel. Jesus has taken these three closest friends of his up a mountain to pray. Then something extraordinary happens. It's as if they are caught up in an ecstasy, and they see Jesus in his heavenly glory with Moses and Elijah, two of the great Old Testament figures. They see Jesus transfigured, transformed, radiant. They are so overcome, so full of joy, they do not want it to end. It is, literally, a peak experience.

Every year we read the transfiguration story on the Second Sunday of Lent. It reminds us of two truths.

First, that we all have, or are offered, peak experiences from time to time – special experiences of love and wonder, exhilaration and awe. Experiences that move or delight us. Maybe it's the birth of a longed-for child, and we gaze in wonderment at the living, breathing manifestation of our love. Maybe it's a moment of intimacy, of deep connection, with a loved one. Maybe it's an experience of being accepted, of being seen, for who you really are. Maybe it's an explosion of joy at a cherished ambition finally fulfilled. Such magic moments are rare and, therefore, precious. Treasure them when they occur.

For Christians, the sacraments offer such moments. Each is a grace-filled encounter with Christ, an exchange with the divine that uplifts, renews, sustains us. Spiritual peak moments that nourish and transform us. They give us a glimpse of the divine that we should treasure also.

Second, the transfiguration story is a reminder and a promise offered to the disciples and to us. The event takes place immediately after Jesus' prediction of his death, and in the midst of the growing hostility of the authorities towards him. It was a troubling time for the disciples. The experience of the transfiguration is to give them a boost. It is to reassure them as to who Jesus really is, and offer them a glimpse of what their destiny will be if they remain faithful to him. Jesus knew there would be difficult days ahead when the disciples' faith would be tested. The memory of the transfiguration would help to sustain them.

That's the promise made to us, too. We will have our peak experiences but also our trough experiences. We will have our times of delight but also our times of sadness. We will have our joys but our sorrows too. The transfiguration story is told on this Sunday to assure us and give us a lift. It tells us that even when we feel God's absence, even when we contemplate the scandals in the Church, even when financial or health or family problems threaten to submerge us, even when our faith wobbles, we can be certain that God is with us, that God's tent is pitched right over us. The transfiguration story tells us that if we listen to Jesus and follow him, if we hold fast to him through thick and thin, then the apostles' peak experience on the mountain that day will be our permanent experience in the glory of paradise. It's a foretaste of our heavenly destiny. ■

## REFLECT

**P**eter, James and John were so transfixed by their mountaintop experience, they wanted it to last forever. It didn't, it couldn't, not this side of the grave. They had to come back down to earth once more. But so incredible was the moment that they never forgot it. The lesson for us is to always live in the moment, to live every moment fully. Despite everything, life is wonderful. Embrace it. Attune yourself to the manifest signs of God's presence all around. With eyes fixed firmly on the mountaintop, live each moment in a way that gives glory to God. ■

## DO

Think about your Lenten commitments. How well are you sticking to them?

## PRAY

Ask the Lord to strengthen you on your journey of faith, as the transfiguration moment strengthened the disciples for the challenges and difficulties that lay ahead of them.



## LEARN

The transfiguration of Jesus offers us a glimpse of our destiny



## SAY

**"Lord, help me always to listen to you. Help me always to appreciate your presence."**