

## IMAGES OF PEACE

I wonder what thoughts and images come into your mind when you hear the word 'peace'?

For me, the immediate image is that of the 'peace sign', (the circle with a vertical line down the centre, and two downward lines angled on either side) which was designed in the 1950s as the logo for the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This logo quickly became adopted by anti-war movements and is now re-interpreted generically as representing world peace.

I think of places like Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and the Yemen – places where tens of thousands of people have been killed in conflicts raging for years now; war-torn countries where the people who live there long and pray for peace in their land. I think of our own country, and the Good Friday Agreement that was a key moment in the Northern Ireland peace process of the 1990s.

And there are other images...

## OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

I think of my childhood, and how in a family with six children I often played the role of 'peacekeeper'; the mediator and go-between (doing my best to defuse arguments and rows over whose turn it was to do the dishes or to choose what game we played next). This remains my default position today where I will do all I can to eliminate or reduce conflict in an attempt to 'keep the peace' at home, at work, or in my relationships.

I think of difficult periods in my life, when I was filled with worry about someone I loved, or about my own situation at the time. I think of how I would find it hard to sit still, or to settle, and how I would long for 'peace of mind' with regards to the future.

I think of decisions that I have had to make that haven't been easy, or decisions made by others that directly affected me; situations where things were perhaps out of my control; times of illness when there

was nothing else to do other than live through whatever the day brought. I think of the transformation that can come from acceptance of a situation and the feeling of 'being at peace' which often follows.

I also think of places – 'peaceful surroundings' – an early morning garden filled only with birdsong; the gentle lapping of waves along the shore during an evening walk; the majesty of mountains and hills as they quiet my inner self.

## SHALOM

The phrase "go in peace" is used numerous times throughout the Bible (eg Mk 5:34; Lk 7:50; Acts 15:33; Gen 15:15), as is the word "peace".

In Greek, the word used for peace is *eirene*, and in Hebrew it is *shalom*. If only I could do true justice to how rich this term *shalom* (שלום) is in the biblical tradition!

*Shalom* is more than mere outward peace, it means wholeness, completeness, fullness, and total well-being. There is always something trying to steal our peace; the depth of *shalom* reaches into our physical, psychological, social, and spiritual self, and consists of peace and serenity from within. *Shalom* is a profound and all-encompassing peace, that can only come from God.

## GO IN PEACE

The dismissal at the end of Mass to "go in peace" is not simply a nice, comforting phrase; it demands action. We are to go into our troubled world, with the peace that comes from knowing God is present in the midst of the trouble. *Shalom* is about life – and it begins with ourselves. We need to have the intention of making peace happen in our personal lives, and this will then expand to our friends, our communities, and in time, to what happens in the world around us.

So get up, and "go in peace". ■

series ends



## Today's readings

Deut 4:32-34. 39-40

Rom 8:14-17

Mt 28:16-20

Today's gospel is from the concluding chapter of Matthew. It tells of the final meeting of Jesus and his disciples on a hillside in Galilee. Jesus bids his disciples farewell as he takes his leave of them. They are left to carry on the mission he had begun. In summary, the mission is 'the Great Commission' to preach the Gospel to all humanity and to make disciples of them through baptism "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". It is the only place in the gospels in which the three persons of the Holy Trinity are mentioned together. Paul will quote as proof of our discipleship and belonging in baptism that "God has sent into our hearts the Spirit of his Son crying, 'Abba, Father'" (Gal 4:6); this is the only other New Testament record of the Church's belief in the Trinity. It is not an abstract teaching but one that comes from the experience of our adoption as children of God.

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

30 May 2021 – The Most Holy Trinity Year B

Psalter Week 2

# Stu( ) Space

SERIES: JUST THREE WORDS

Season colour: WHITE

In this series, **Clare Gilmore** explores the sheer depth contained in 'just three words'.

## GO IN PEACE



We hear the words "Go in peace" every time we go to Mass – or rather, every time we leave Mass. They are the words of dismissal spoken to each of us as part of the Concluding Rite; and while we may often be dismissive of their meaning, that meaning is so rich and full that we do ourselves and others a disservice to dismiss them so easily.

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## The Most Holy Trinity – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Anniversary Masses

#### Leitrim

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Philomena and Owen Rice

#### Dromara

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Vincent and Desmond O'Hare

Rosie Williams

Kevin O'Hare

Michael Reavey

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Owen & Agnes and Pat Kelly

Dylan O'Hare

#### Dechomet

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Aisling O'Donnell and Pat Doyle

Susan and John Greeran

Phyllis and Seamus Doyle

**Gargory Altar Society** June – Rita & Clare

### Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and need a helping hand?

Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

*Recently we have experienced a few technical issues with uploading the bulletin and missalette to the parish website. The issues have now been resolved and this week's bulletin and missalette have been uploaded. Bulletins for the previous two weeks have also now been uploaded.*

### Collections 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Dromara

#### Parish

£648

Drumgooland

£846

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish Mya Middleton and into Dromara Parish Rois Fegan

### Statue at Dechomet

The statue of Our Lady will be blessed after mass on Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May (Feast of the Visitation) if the weather permits. This short service will hopefully be streamed as well. The statue is to acknowledge the babies who were buried at the mound and other parts of the cemetery without proper recognition.

### Gift Aid letters

Letters have gone out to some parishioners for whom we have no record of a Gift Aid form. If you are a taxpayer and financially support the parish, gift aid allows the parish to reclaim the tax paid on your gift, it adds 25% to your generosity. Please return the gift aid form in the envelope provided if you are willing to sign up.

### Thefts from cars

Do not leave bags or valuables visible in your car, church and cemetery. Car parks here have experienced break-ins recently.

### 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

### First Holy Communion

St Michael's P.S. Finnis

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> June 11:00am

St Matthew's P.S. Magheramayo

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> June 10:00am

St Mary's P.S. Dechomet

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> June 10:30am and 12 noon

**The Sacrament of Confession** will not be celebrated before First Holy Communion this year due to the 2m social distance. It has been the tradition to celebrate First Confession before First Communion, but it is not essential to do so. First Confession will be celebrated when it is safe to gather people in a manner that allows the children to come forth to receive God's gift of forgiveness without any concerns of being overheard or spreading infection.