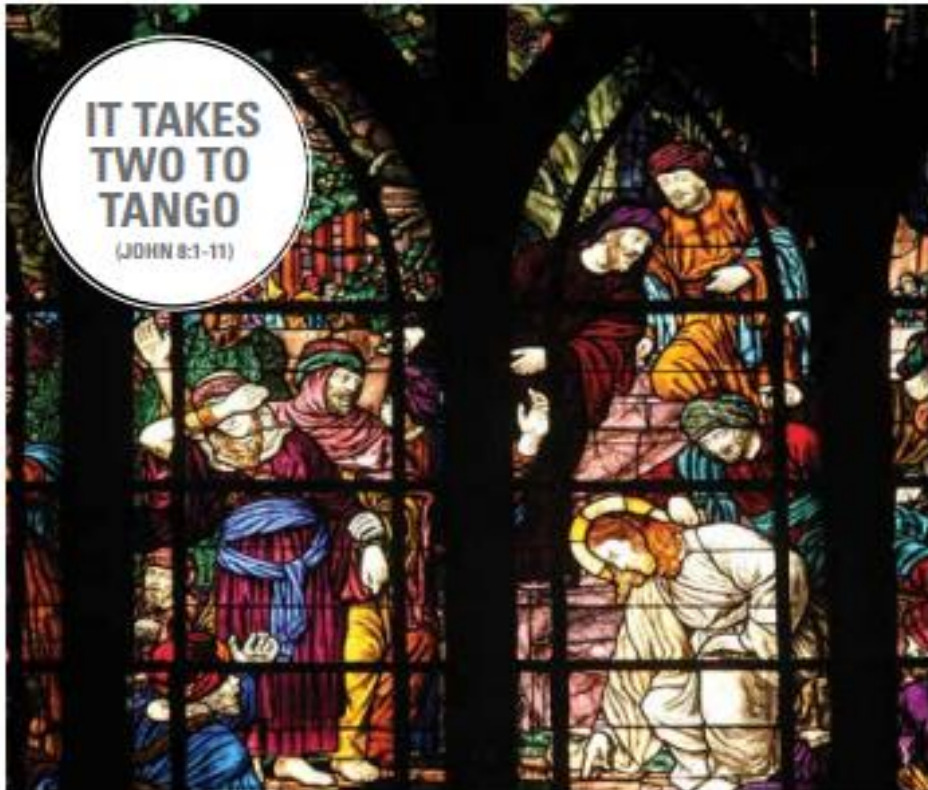


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

(JOHN 8:1-11)

Stained glass scene, in the Church of Saint-Jean de Montmartre, of Christ and the woman caught in adultery

The flowing narrative in our gospel reading today from John is quite unlike the style of the Fourth Evangelist and reminds the reader more of the stories in the account of Luke.

Jesus is put on the spot by his critics and asked for his opinion as to what should be done about a woman caught in the act of adultery. Jesus is being judged; but he turns the process around and focuses it on the characters who want to catch him out.

The judgment of the Law is clear: the woman should be stoned to death. But the point of the confrontation is not the fate of the unnamed woman; it is to find something with which to accuse and convict Jesus. It is a case of Jesus versus Moses, and so there should be no question of the outcome.

Jesus refuses to engage in the debate, but rather challenges his self-righteous opponents to initiate the sentence of death. They and all the others apparently melt away, until Jesus and the woman are left alone, and for the first time she is addressed directly. Jesus does not judge her, but offers her the possibility of a new life and a restored relationship with God, when he says "Do not sin again". The past is over, forgiven and forgotten; what matters is the new life from now on. ■

LEARN

In the Fourth Gospel, the opponents of Jesus are generally referred to simply as "the Jews".

The term 'the Jews' usually refers to the members of the religious and political establishment, not to the people as a whole.

In the Synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, these characters are described as "the chief priests, the scribes and the elders": they are the ones who bring about the crucifixion of Jesus.

The Pharisees were lay leaders, based locally in the synagogue.

REFLECT

Adultery requires at least two participants. It is significant that only the female partner is dragged before Jesus. Jesus' response is to offer the unnamed woman the opportunity of a new beginning. He does not condemn her, he does not criticise the Law to which his opponents appealed, but rather he challenges his opponents to act on their own convictions – and be convicted themselves in the process.

As with all gospel stories, we are being asked, 'whose side are you on?' Are you with the religious authorities who parade this unfortunate woman in public to Jesus as a test case? Are you with Jesus, who refuses to sit in judgment? We are not told whether the woman was involved in this affair through passion or simply through poverty. And what about the man involved, who apparently escapes scot-free?

The only individual person with whom Jesus interacts directly in this episode is the unnamed woman who is, in many ways, the unwitting excuse for the attack on Jesus. They are left alone, once all the others have sidled off when Jesus challenges them to declare themselves innocent and so entitled to stand in judgment and exact the penalty. Jesus treats the woman with respect; he speaks to her properly and offers her the chance of a new start. That is the message of Lent, that we are all being presented with the opportunity to begin again with a clean slate. We can stand with the woman's accusers, with the woman herself, or with Jesus. Where do you stand in this story? ■

DO

Find out about the refuge for women in your local area and the reasons why women end up there.

SAY

No need to recall the past: the Lord is doing something new

(see Isaiah 43:18, 19)

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Fifth Sunday of Lent – 3rd April 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

The sick and housebound will be attended this week

Recently deceased Maura Murphy, Ribadoo Road, Legananny

Anniversary Masses

Gargory

Sun 3rd Patrick McAleenan

Leitrim

Mon 4th Mickey and Christopher Malone
Wed 6th Brendan Boyd
Sat 9th John and Agnes Boyd

Dechomet

Mon 4th Mary and Henry O'Hare and
Deceased Family Members
Sat 9th Patrick Hugh and Elizabeth Doyle
John Sweeney

Dromara

Sun 10th Gerry and Cissie O'Hare

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Henry Duffin

Easter/Spring Wreath Workshop

Fri 8th Apr 7pm in Peter Morgan's Cottage
Cost £45, includes all materials needed to create a beautiful spring wreath for your door, along with some light refreshments.
Ring or text Michelle on 07922952011 to book.

Rosary at the Grottos during May

It may be easier to organize one night a week at a Grotto... if anyone wishes to coordinate this time of prayer please let me know.

Collections

	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£134	£836
Sick & Retired Priests	£220	£425
Ukraine collection	£1167	£3654

Thank you for this very generous response. Donations are still coming in, if you wish to make a donation please do so as soon as possible, so that it can be forwarded to those who need it.

Confirmation

Tues 5th St Matthew's P.S. 6pm Leitrim
Wed 6th St Mary's P.S. 6pm Leitrim
Fri 8th St Michael's P.S. 6pm Finnis

Each family will have a seat with the person confirmed. There will be other seats available in the church. Please wear a face covering.

Holy Week

Holy Thursday 6pm Dromara 7:30pm Leitrim

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 3pm

Dechomet, Dromara & Leitrim
Evening Service 6pm Dromara 7:30pm Gargory

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 9pm Leitrim

Easter Sunday 9am Gargory 10am Leitrim
11am Dromara 12noon Dechomet

Confessions

Mon 11th 6:45-7:15pm Dechomet
Tues 12th 6:45-7:30pm Dromara
Wed 13th 6:45-7:30pm Leitrim
Sat 16th 10-10:30am Gargory

Confessions will be in the front seat, please wear a face covering.

Choirs Singing in church is allowed again. I am aware that it will take time to rebuild what was a gift to our celebrations, please know that your contribution is welcome.

Dechomet Choir Two short meetings after 6pm Saturday Mass Apr 2nd & 9th in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Trócaire wish to thank the McKay Family of Dree Hill, for the sum of money received in lieu of flowers at the death of David McKay.