

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

*33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## 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

*Bridget Brennan, Belfast*  
*Patrick Joseph Murphy, Newcastle,*  
*formerly Ballymaginthy*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### LEITRIM

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup>** Kieran McCrickard  
Ryan Doyle, Hugh & Rose Ann Doyle  
Mick, Mary & Michael Cassidy  
& Rosemary Doherty  
Deceased Members of Laitroim Fontenoy's

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>** Ellen & James O'Hare  
Hugh & Sarah McAnulty

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup>** Charlie, Brigid, Jim, Jerome  
& Phelim Shields  
Gerard McElroy

### GARGORY

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** James & Doreen Gribben

### DROMARA

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** Mary McEvoy, Patrick, Cecilia  
& Bridget Gorman (*Ardtanagh*)

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup>** Theresa McNeill  
Mary McNeill

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup>** Michael McKey

### DECHOMET

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup>** Mary Ellen O'Hare  
Brian Doyle

**SVP** Dromara 077 3883 8191  
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

**Safeguarding Contact** Patricia Carville 077 8991 7741

*For Sale* The two cut granite stone pillars at Gargory Parochial House are available for purchase. If anyone is interested in purchasing the pillars please contact Fr Peter. You are asked to submit the amount that you are willing to offer for the pillars.

**Collections Dromara Drumgooland**  
Parish £413 £1,062

*Thank you for your contributions.*

*We Welcome into Drumgooland Parish*  
*Niamh Isla King*

**Do This In Memory** The preparation for First Holy Communion continues on **25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Nov.** The children are asked to bring a leaf, a drawing of a leaf or a piece of card with the name(s) of a person who has died on it.

Any group or individual who wishes to book **St Michael's Hall** must do so with Mary McCann (07854780974), there is a new booking form to be completed. The Hall is insured but anyone who hires it must have their own insurance for their activity, proof of insurance must be submitted with the booking form. If there are children present at the activity, the group must have a child safeguarding policy, a copy needs to be given before an activity can begin.

**Thank you** to all who use the Hall responsibly and clean it after use. All groups using the Hall, including charities, are asked to contribute to the running costs of the Hall. The small fees asked help to reduce the cost to the parish.

**Women's Aid Armagh Down** is offering free online (*Zoom*) **Domestic Abuse Awareness training** **Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 7:30-9pm**, for people working in close contact businesses (*e.g. hairdresser, dentist, optician, etc.*). Limited places, contact [rebekah@womensaidarmaghdown.org](mailto:rebekah@womensaidarmaghdown.org)

**Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving** for parents and families who have been bereaved through pregnancy loss or the death of a baby, child or young person in Daisy Hill Hospital and the wider community, **Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, 3pm, Newry Town Hall.** A floral tribute will be created in remembrance so you may wish to bring a flower.

Everyone is welcome to the **Five Consecutive First Saturday Devotions** which will continue on **Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec** in Dechomet Chapel. Rosary (and confessions) at 5:30 pm, Mass at 6pm, followed by a 15-minute meditation on the Joyful Mysteries.

Please join the **'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group'** on **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** for a great afternoon of **Christmas Bingo** in the Parish Hall. Doors open 2:30pm, Bingo 3pm. **£100 JACKPOT** must go. Good fun, refreshments and a great raffle, so please come along and show your support for the school.

# Sunday Message

33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 19 November 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about a man who goes away on business and leaves three of his servants in charge of his property.

To one servant he gives five talents, to another two, and to the third he gives one talent. A talent was a lot of money in Jesus' day, about \$20,000 in today's money. The master doesn't tell the servants what to do with his property, but allows each to use his own initiative.

The first and second servants take risks with the money and decide to invest it. Their gamble pays off and they double their fortunes. But the third servant is afraid. He buries his talent in the ground for safekeeping.

Upon his return, the master is delighted with the first two servants. They have shown themselves worthy of their master's trust and so he invites them to share in his happiness. But the third servant is castigated for returning his talent intact and unused. The master is furious with him for his fear and lack of initiative. He calls him a good-for-nothing. The story ends with the third servant being thrown into the dark, where there is weeping and grinding of teeth.

Throughout his Gospel, Matthew is at pains to show that fear can cripple discipleship and stand in the way of a genuine following of Jesus Christ. He is trying to encourage his readers to avoid complacency and timidity, and to take risks for their faith.

The servant was punished not for misusing his talent, but for not using it at all. In Jesus' eyes, what is important is to not be afraid to use our talents and to take risks in the service of the Gospel, remembering that effort always matters more than results. ■

## REFLECT

It is over 12 years since Steve Jobs died. A co-founder of Apple, Jobs was an American businessman and inventor widely recognised as a charismatic pioneer of the personal computer revolution, a visionary whose company has become one of the most valuable in the world.

Steve Jobs was responsible for everything from the IMac to the Ipad, all those gadgets starting with the letter i. At the time of his death, Jobs was listed as either primary inventor or co-inventor in 342 United States patents or patent applications related to a range of technologies.

A man of rare talent, he used his talents to make a difference to people's lives.

Today's Gospel tells the famous parable of the talents. It is about how the disciples of Jesus are to live in the in-between times as they await the return of the Son of Man. We are to use this time to build God's kingdom. We are to use our talents, our knowledge, our gifts, to do good and to give glory to God.

Sadly, we don't always succeed in doing this. We can use our talents only for personal gain, to help ourselves. Or we can fail to recognise or use our talents at all. Many people today, influenced by our celebrity obsessed culture, look at themselves and think they have nothing to offer. They look at their body shape, or their exam results, or their bank accounts, or their job or lack of a job, and think they don't measure up, that they are useless, even that they are failures.

They fail to appreciate their own gifts and talents and abilities. They fail to make the most of what they have been given.

On these last Sundays of the Church's year, we are thinking about the end times, judgement day, when we will be called to account for how we have lived our lives.

Today's liturgy reminds us that God has graced, blessed and gifted us in so many ways. We may not be a Steve Jobs, but we are talented. The Gospel story invites us to do three things.

First, think of the talents that you have. Tot them up. Note them. Acknowledge them. You are talented in many different ways.

Second, consider whether you are using all your talents. Are there talents that you have neglected to make the most of? Talents maybe that you don't even realise you have.

Third, examine how you are using your talents. Have you made the best use of the talents you possess? Are you using them to give glory to God? Are you using them to make a difference in people's lives? Do you use them for good?

When the moment of reckoning arrives for each of us, will God praise us, like he praised the first two servants, for how we have used the gifts we have received, or will God judge us harshly, as he judged the third servant, because we were afraid or unwilling to use what we were given? It is up to us. ■

## LEARN

We are called to use our talents to bring hope and joy to others, to build God's kingdom

Talents come in many different guises

## DO

Try this week to acknowledge the gifts and talents of a family member or friend who needs to hear encouraging words.

## SAY

"Thank you, God, for the gifts you have given me. Give me the confidence to use them for your glory. Amen."

## PRAY

Pray for all those who feel that they have nothing to offer in life. Ask God to give them courage and a belief in themselves.