

# Stu(space)

SERIES: HOW GREEN IS YOUR FAITH?

Season colour: **GREEN**

In this series, **Triona Doherty** examines why the environment should be an important topic for the church to consider.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis says that the creation accounts suggest that human life is grounded in three closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. We are called to be carers and custodians of the earth and everything in it – because all creatures and all of creation come from God, and tell us something about who God is.

## THE WORK OF YOUR FINGERS

**T**hroughout both the Old and New Testament God's love and concern for creation is to the fore. The Book of Wisdom emphasises that God's "immortal spirit is in all things" (Wisdom 12:1). The Psalms praise his care for the natural world; "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8). Indeed many of the Psalms serve as beautiful and inspiring reflections on the beauty of our world.

The prophets of the Old Testament also offer a vision of living in harmony with others and with nature. Jeremiah issues a warning to those who show a lack of respect for the earth, while Amos condemns those whose extravagant lifestyles oppress the poor and the needy - who "trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth" (Amos 2:7).

Jesus also spoke at times of our relationship with the earth. He illustrates God's love by talking about his care for some of the smallest of creatures; "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them" (Matthew 6:26).

Promising that the meek "will inherit the earth", he encourages us to think about the earth's future, and what sort of world we are leaving for future generations.

## ALL CREATION

**J**esus' parting command to his disciples is to "go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). God's plan is that the whole of creation is to be renewed. The vision of the book of Revelation indicates that the whole of creation will be transformed into a "new earth". Human beings are not separate or removed from this world; on the contrary, our world plays a central role in God's plan for salvation.

It is not something to be flippant about. We all have our part to play in protecting and preserving the beautiful world we have been given. ■

*'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
The world, and those who live in it'*

(Psalm 24:1)



## Today's readings

2 Samuel 12:7-10. 13  
Galatians 2:16. 19-21  
Luke 7:36 – 8:3

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

Today's Gospel tells how Jesus was invited to a meal by one of his critics, Simon the Pharisee. The zone of purity which Simon, as a practising Pharisee, had so carefully created around his table is broken by the arrival of an unwanted guest. This was a 'men only' party. A woman 'who had a bad name in the town' forces her way into the room. Ignoring the scowls of the guests, the woman goes up behind the couch on which Jesus is lying, lets her tears fall on his feet, wipes them with her hair, and kisses them before rubbing them with costly perfumed oil she pours from an alabaster jar.

The sight of such a notorious woman touching a man who has a reputation as a prophet is enough for Simon. Now the conversation takes a new turn. Jesus seems to ignore the woman as he gives the wise teaching he has been invited for. It is in the form of a parable. Is it more generous to forgive someone who owes you 50 pounds or someone who owes you 500?

Simon falls into the trap Jesus sets for him. Both Simon and the woman are forgiven sinners. Simon, who has spent his life trying to be good, needs the same relief and joy that comes from forgiveness as she does.

Simon and his companions now get an unexpected lesson on the rules of hospitality. The very courtesies they had forgotten to pay to Jesus have all been paid generously by the woman they regard as an outcast. The great lesson of this scene is that the person who has not experienced the joy of forgiveness has not learned the lesson of love.



## CUSTODIANS OF THE EARTH

“For your immortal spirit is in all things”

(Wisdom 12:1)

## A CALL TO ACTION

**H**ow often do we think about the environment? Even if we are diligent about living as greenly as possible in our day-to-day lives, it can sometimes seem like a 'niche' concern, with little to do with our Christian lives.

However, there is plenty of biblical evidence to support a call to environmental action. In the creation stories of the book of Genesis, it is the responsibility of humans to care for the earth, to "till and keep" it. This duty is often described as 'stewardship'.

Humans are so closely bound to the natural world that when God establishes his covenant, it is not just with one person or people – it is with the whole of creation: "I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you..." (Genesis 9:9-10). We are all connected.

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# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Email: dromaradgooland@aol.co.uk www.dromaradgooland.org

## 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### Masses this week

Mon 9.00am Leitrim

Mon 7.30pm Dechomet

Tues 10.00am Dromara – Mass for School Leavers

Wed 7.00pm Gargory

### Sunday Mass times

Dechomet – Sat evening 6pm

Leitrim – Sat evening 7.30pm

Gargory – Sun morning 8.30am

Leitrim – Sun morning 9.30am

Dromara – Sun morning 11am

### Holidays plans

I will be in holidays from Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Jun until Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jul. For all sick calls or deaths please contact Fr Des Loughran on 97561432 (mob. 07855741888). Fr Tony Owens will help if necessary, tel. 43751296 (mob. 07516529345). My mobile phone will be turned off whilst I am away. Weekend masses will remain as usual, there are no weekday masses until Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jul.

**Recently deceased** Kathleen Ward, Lighthouse Road, Derryneil

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Quail

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> – Thomas, John and Sarah Murphy; Catherine Doyle and Cecelia O'Hare; Arthur Burns

#### Leitrim

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> – William McCartan (Ballydrumman)

#### Gargory

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> – Seamus Gribben

Offerings	Parish	Priest's	Youth	Sisters of	Parish Draw
	5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Offering	Ministry	Columban	
Drumgooland	£798	£1,235	£373	£241	Second monthly draw Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Jun at 7pm, Dechomet
Dromara	£406	£709	£130	£152	<b>Dromara Parish Council Meeting</b> Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Jun at 8pm in St Michael's Hall, Finnis

**Cross Community Service** in St. John's Church, Dromara, Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Jun at 3.30pm, everyone welcome.

**Lourdes 59 Club** £55 winners No. 59 Brenda McNeill and No. 30 Roisin & Peter Ward

**Congratulations** to Laura McEvoy and Liam Morgan who were married recently.

### Jubilee Year of Mercy

Eucharistic Adoration Thur 16<sup>th</sup> Jun, 10am-10pm in St Patrick's Church, Ballynahinch

**St Matthew's PS** will celebrate a Mass for Schools Leavers and the retirement of Mrs Devlin on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7pm in Gargory. There will be refreshments in Leitrim Fontenoy Hall afterwards, all are welcome.

### St Malachy's High School Graduates

Any past student from St Malachy's High School who has recently graduated and would like to be included in our submission in the local newspaper in early August, please contact Mrs Bronagh Cleland at the School on (028) 43778255 or bcleland012@c2kni.net. All information must be submitted before Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul. Many thanks and congratulations to you all!

**Dromara Readers** please collect a copy of the new Rota

**Leitrim Cleaners** w/e 17<sup>th</sup> Jun – Bridie's Team

**Bulletin Notices** please advise of any notices for the bulletin before 10am on Thursdays.

### St Joseph's Young Priests' Society

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue on Fri nights 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Jun and 1<sup>st</sup> Jul from 7.30 - 8.30pm.

**St Michael's PS Parent Association in association with NI Hospice** are holding a Fundraising Golf day on Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Jun at Rockmount Golf Club, Carryduff. Tee off times are booking up fast and if you would like to take part please contact Jonathan Gates by email johnniegates5022@btinternet.com or on mobile 07907386425. Please share with family and friends, and we look forward to seeing you there!!

### St Joseph's Young Priests' Society

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jun. Bus leaving Ballynahinch at 7am. Pick-ups in Castlewellan or Drumaness can be arranged. Time of pick-up will be confirmed at time of booking. Cost £35, includes evening meal. To book contact Geraldine McCullough on (028) 97564316.

**Family Care Adoption Society** is presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For more information please contact us at: Tel: (028) 71368592 / 90691133, Mon to Fri 9–1pm. Email: email@familycaresociety.org Website: www.familycaresociety.co.uk

### St Vincent de Paul Helplines

Drumgooland 079 7981 5269 / Dromara 077 38838191