

Sunday Message

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 25 June 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

(MATTHEW 10: 24-39)

The whole chapter 10 of Matthew's Gospel defines what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. And the definition is not for the faint hearted.

When travelling around the countryside driving out demons and spirits and healing the sick, a true disciple must travel light and leave all money and possessions behind. No bag or extra sandals and each disciple will be sent out like sheep among wolves.

Today's Gospel passage continues in similar vein with a warning to the disciples. When they preach the Word of God, they will encounter bitterness and hatred. Jesus has already experienced adversity in his ministry and is very aware that the same animosity awaits his followers. But the key statement from Jesus is one of hope: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."

The future trials of the disciples are being predicted by Jesus and in many ways the same warnings are applicable for the Church today. We face many trials in the form of decreased numbers attending mass, our teachings and beliefs are under constant challenge and scrutiny by an increasingly secular world and there are many conflicting proposals as to the future direction our Church must take in order to survive.

But amidst the adversity that Jesus and his disciples will face, he says to his followers, "Do not be afraid." True disciples of Jesus are always ready for the difficulties that will come. We are supported by a compassionate and loving Christ who cares for us and encourages us through uncertainty. ■

LEARN

In virtue of Baptism we become missionary disciples, called to bring the Gospel to the world (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 120)

DO

Listen to the Word of God in today's Gospel reading and allow it to transform you towards a life in Christ. Answer the question: How can I show true discipleship in my parish?

SAY

God our Father, surround us with your love, fill us with your grace and strengthen us for your service.

REFLECT

The Danish Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard tells the story of a fire which began in a small town. The chief fireman on duty that day was a very popular man and so all his friends and neighbours turned out in force to help him put out the fire. Their gesture was well intentioned except they all used water pistols to extinguish the inferno. It didn't work! And the fire chief screamed at them. 'What on earth do you think you are doing? What do you

think you will achieve with those water pistols?' But the people continued to help. This time they squirted their water pistols in unison to have a greater effect. But again the chief responded, 'Get out of here. You're achieving nothing except hindering us from doing what needs to be done.....This is not a place for token contributions.'

Kierkegaard told this story urging all Christians to realise that discipleship to Christ means much more than token levels of support to the Church.

It calls for wholehearted and total life commitment.

Today's theme of discipleship is perhaps an invitation for some of us to evaluate our own commitment to the life of the Church. It's easy to see who the workers in the parish are. Those who dedicate hours and hours every week to helping others. But in light of today's Gospel from Matthew, how do we respond to some of the challenges to the faith. With half heartedness or total life commitment? ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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25th June 2023

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet
7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory
11:00am Dromara

Masses this week

Mon 9:00am Leitrim & 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 10:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Recently Deceased

*Patricia Hamilton (nee Grant), Newcastle,
formerly Ballymaginthy*

ANNIVERSARIES

DECHOMET

Sat 24th James O'Hare
Sat 1st Bernard, Margaret & Patrick Doyle

LEITRIM

Sat 24th PF & Mary Rose McCartan
Michael McElroy
Sam Duggan
Wed 28th James Cunningham (Moneyslane)
Sat 1st Sarah Lennon
Mary, James & Hugh Murray

DROMARA

Sun 25th **Maureen McCann MM**
Hugh McCoubry (Derry)
Fri 30th Pat's John O'Hare and
Deceased Family Members
Sun 2nd **Fr Clement McManus (MM)**
Joe & Liz Gordon
Margaret Marmion and
Deceased Family Members

Gargory Altar Rota

July - Carmel & Geraldine

SVDP: Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067

Safeguarding Contact: P Carville 07789917741

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£160	£598

Thank you for your prayers when I was away on retreat. You were in my prayers

I will be away on holiday this year
6th July until 26th July

Drumgooland Parish Council Meeting
Mon 26th June at 8pm

Wee James' Tractor Run *Sunday 9th July*

The Mill, 50 Leitrim Road, BT31 9BD
Registration Open 12-12:30pm
Run Starts 3:30pm
£20 per Tractor

For Sponsorship Opportunities contact
weejames.tractorrund@outlook.com

All proceeds in aid of SVP / PIPS / MYMY

Peter Morgan's Cottage **Cairn Sunday 6th August**

Walk from Peter Morgan's Cottage,
Dree Hill Rd., Slieve Croob.
Return by Pass Loanan.

7mls/11 km approx. 2 - 2½ hrs.

Road, track, some wet ground. boots
recommended. No dogs.

Meet at the Cottage at 9am.

Walk begins 9 30am.

Refreshments on return at the cottage.

Queries contact 97.532.479

Donations in aid of

Slieve Croob First Responders

Dromara & Drumgooland Lourdes Committee *seeking new members*

Following a successful pilgrimage to Lourdes this year, plans are already underway for the 2024 Pilgrimage. This is only possible with the support from volunteers.

If you feel you could contribute in anyway, please contact Kieran McEvoy 07986 366162 or Anne Mackin 07845 234149.