

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: [dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org](mailto:dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org) Web: [www.dromaradrumgooland.org](http://www.dromaradrumgooland.org)

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**  
**22<sup>nd</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

**Tue** 9:00am Dromara

**Wed** 7:30pm Leitrim

**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

The next of *The Five Consecutive First Saturday* of the month devotions, will continue directly after 6pm Mass in Dechomet on **Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept** with the Rosary followed by a 15 minute meditation.

Confessions available from 5:30

(or can be availed of within 20 days).

Along with receiving Holy Communion, everything is offered in reparation to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart for peace as requested in Fatima.

## *Recently deceased*

*Mark McEvoy*

*Castlewellan Road, Gargory*

*Cissie Kelly*

*Ardglass Road, Backaderry*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### DECHOMET

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>** Mary Rooney (*Dechomet*)

### LEITRIM

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>** Eddie McAleenan  
Eugene O'Hare, Richard Duggan  
& Deceased Family Members

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup>** Winnifred Savage

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup>** Winnie Ward

### DROMARA

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>** Daniel Hughes (*Derry*)

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup>** Anne Mullan

Patrick McGrillen

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup>** Susan Darby, Joe McCann  
& Deceased Family Members

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£434	£1,006

## Parish Council Meetings

Drumgooland Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sept

Dromara Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Sept

The *sick and housebound* will be attended this week

## *Volunteers Needed!*

Every church would benefit from more volunteers, there are many roles. Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Collector, Counter, Choir, Cleaning the Chapel, Decoration of the Altar. Please consider stepping forward, a volunteer is better than a conscript.

## *New Altar Servers*

Forms are available, please return to the church or to the school.

## *Do This In Memory*

The material for the preparation programme for First Communion is available.

If your child did not receive it through the school, please let me know.

## *St Patrick's Camino*

**Walk** with singer-songwriter **Dana**, in the footsteps of St Patrick with pilgrim guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on **Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept.**

Begin the six-mile Camino adventure at the St Patrick Centre, Downpatrick, with IMAX film about St Patrick, take guided river walk to ruins of **12<sup>th</sup> Century Inch Abbey**, and then journey to **Saul** to visit the site of Patrick's first church and his grave, **Down Cathedral.**

Bus transfers, pilgrim passport, lunch £45.

To Book a place on the Pilgrim Walk contact:

The St Patrick Centre 028 4461 9000

[www.saintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.saintpatrickcentre.com)

**SVdP:** Dromara 077 3883 8191

Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

## **Safeguarding Contact:**

P Carville 077 8991 7741

# Sunday Message

22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 3 September 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



In today's Gospel Jesus prepares his disciples for the ordeal he is about to face in Jerusalem. He tells them that he will suffer greatly and be put to death, and that he will be raised up on the third day.

The prediction is too much for his disciples. They are appalled by his words. Just a little earlier Peter had declared Jesus to be the Messiah. The Jews associated the Messiah with glory and power and victory, not suffering and failure and death. If Jesus is the Messiah, then he could not end up on a cross.

Peter points this out to Jesus. "Heaven preserve you, Lord," he says. "This must not happen to you." But Jesus turns on Peter and rebukes him in very harsh language: "Get behind me, Satan. You are an obstacle in my path."

Peter must have been shocked to the core by the violence of Jesus' response. Only a short while previously Jesus had told Peter that he would be the rock upon which he would build his Church; now Jesus tells him that he is a tool of Satan.

Peter failed to understand what Jesus' mission was about. For Jesus, the most important thing in the world was proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom. He knew that to do so would mean making enemies; that it would even cost him his life. But he knew too that he could not betray the will of his heavenly Father no matter what the price.

Jesus goes on to explain what being a follower of his really means. It is not about seeking earthly glory or material reward. It is about being willing to take up one's cross. It is about being willing to die to self, to risk everything, even to lose one's life, for the sake of the Gospel.

But he assures us that it is a price worth paying - for it will guarantee us the reward of eternal life. ■

## DO

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes it very clear what being his follower entails. Think about your life and your priorities. Do you follow the way of the world or the way of Christ?

## PRAY

It is so difficult to follow Jesus. Even Peter, the first pope, found it hard. In last Sunday's Gospel he is praised for correctly identifying who Jesus is; now Jesus rebukes him for opposing the cross. Pray for all members of the Church, and for all Christians, that we may constantly strive to follow Jesus to the best of our ability.

## SAY

"Lord, help me to follow you faithfully. Give me the courage to take up my cross if I have to. Amen."

## LEARN

To be a follower of Christ often means going against the values of the world we live in

The Christian is one who puts God first - at whatever the cost

## REFLECT

We shouldn't be too hard on Peter. He couldn't understand why the Messiah had to suffer, why suffering would have to be part of the deal. Why would he?

None of us likes to have to face up to the reality of suffering. Our culture today is one that is big into pleasure and youthfulness and instant gratification. We want to enjoy the good life, to celebrate the body beautiful, to keep the ageing

process at bay, to deny for as long as we can the discomfiting fact that we are mortal.

Our society finds it very hard to have to deal with suffering and pain. We don't want anything that will discommodate us, or upset us, or put us out. We don't want to have to confront pain or live with it. We find it particularly hard to see how anything good could come out of suffering.

Jesus does not see suffering as something good. In the garden of Gethsemane, he prayed to avoid it. But he knows that it is part of life, part of the human condition, and that to follow his way means having to take up one's cross. To give oneself for others always costs. But Jesus knows, too, that God is present with those who suffer, and that this knowledge gives us strength. The pain of Calvary is the prelude to the glory of Easter. ■