

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4

THE REAL PRESENCE

(JOHN 10:27-30)



Today's gospel extract comes from a discussion between Jesus and his opponents during the winter festival of the Feast of Dedication, and is set within the Temple in Jerusalem.

The others have demanded that Jesus tell them plainly whether he is the Messiah or not. Jesus replies by giving them a description of the true believer, the kind of person who can accept Jesus' message because, unlike the people he is talking to, that individual will accept Jesus on his own terms. The others cannot receive him because their understanding is limited to their own ideas.

The true believer, one of the "sheep" Jesus is talking about, hears (and listens), follows (becomes a disciple) and thus receives eternal life, which means never being lost.

The Feast of Dedication celebrates the reconsecration of the Temple and its altar after it had been desecrated by pagan soldiers, and the building represented the presence of God among the people. Jesus, however, says, "The Father and I are one." We remember that elsewhere Jesus tells his disciple Philip that to see Jesus is to see the Father. There is now a different way to understand how God is present, not in a building, no matter how sacred, but rather in the person of Jesus. To believe in Jesus will then bring the disciple close not only to Jesus, but also to God. In this way, Jesus is, in himself, replacing the Temple as the focus of God's presence. ■

REFLECT

We are accustomed to talking and hearing about the 'Real Presence': this expression normally refers to the reserved Eucharistic sacrament, which is kept in the tabernacle in the church. This phrase states our belief that Jesus is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine. However, it may give the impression that this is the only way in which Jesus is here among us.

One of the reforms of the liturgy at Vatican II was to recommend the removal of the tabernacle from the high altar to a side chapel. Some people took this as a lack of respect for the Blessed Sacrament, but the directive was making an important point. When the community assembles to celebrate the Eucharist together, Christ is present in the congregation in as valid a way as in the consecrated bread and wine. Hence there should be no genuflection to the tabernacle, as Christ is present among his disciples in just as real, though different, a way. Jesus tells us that where two or three gather in his name, he is "in their midst".

Christ is present in other ways, for instance, when we pray, when we read the Scriptures, when we minister to our brothers and sisters. Jesus tells us that he and the Father are one, and so God's presence is mediated to the disciple through him. In this way, Jesus himself is the Real Presence, and he and God are not confined to any building or ritual. ■

SAY

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice.

(John 10:27)

DO

Light a candle and spend some time thinking about how God is present to you in the person of the risen Jesus.



LEARN

The Feast of Dedication celebrated the reconsecration of the Temple and its altar after it had been desecrated in the century before Jesus.

It is commemorated today in the Jewish festival of Hannukah.

The Temple was regarded as the place of privileged access to the presence of God.

In John's Gospel, Jesus replaces in himself the principal feasts and institutions of Israel.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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4th Sunday of Easter – 8th May 2022

Weekday masses

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

Weekend masses

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

Recently deceased Maurice Austin, Derrytrasna

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 7th Arthur and Mary Burns

Leitrim

Sat 7th Bernie Cowan; Charlie and Teresa O'Higgins; Tommy and Joe Bannon; Martin Brown; Esther O'Rourke; Pat and Marie O'Hare (Backaderry)

Sat 14th Deceased Members of McElroy Family

Gargory

Sun 8th John Donnelly

Sun 15th Gerry, Anne, Peter, and Mary Owens

Dromara

Sun 8th John and Mary Drake; Mary Galbraith; Joe and Margaret rice

Fri 13th Julia McCann (MM)

Sun 15th Annie Gordon (MM)

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

Gargory immediately after 9am mass

Dromara 12 noon **Leitrim** 3pm **Dechomet** 5pm

It has been three years since we have been able to gather, hopefully the weather will be favourable. Help will be needed for parking cars and collectors, if you are willing to help, please let me know.

Dromara – Michael O'Donnell, Laurence O'Hare, Declan McCann

Leitrim – Kevin McCrickard, Brian Malone, Liam Murphy

Dechomet – Pat Doyle, Paul Greeran, Pat Rooney

First Communion

Sat 14th May 11am St Michael's Finnis

Sat 21st May 11am St Matthew's Magheramayo

Dromara Eucharistic Ministers Meeting after mass

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£252	£1104
Priest	£672	£1648

Ukraine collection Diocesan total £108,304

Trócaire Thank you to all who have made donations to Trócaire. In order to receive matched funding all donations have to be returned by Sun 22nd May. If you wish to write a cheque please make it payable to the 'Parish of Dromara' or 'Parish of Drumgooland' as this makes it easier for Trócaire.

We welcome into Dromara Parish Emily Hamilton and Mason McAteer and into Drumgooland Parish Zara Fitzpatrick and Emily McKay.

Lourdes 59 Club Winners

8th Jan No. 27 M & M McKay

15th Jan No. 4 Patricia Burns

22nd Jan No. 28 Patricia McKay

29th Jan No. 46 Christine McCartan

5th Feb No. 48 No winner

12th Feb No. 49 No winner

19th Feb No. 20 S & M McEvoy

26th Feb No. 26 Loretta Gribben

5th Mar No. 48 No winner

12th Mar No. 16 No winner

19th Mar No. 7 Owen Kelly

26th Mar No. 40 Patsy Rice

2nd Apr No. 20 S & M McKay

9th Apr No. 17 Rooney Family

16th Apr No. 44 Lorraine Rice

23rd Apr No. 15 Patsy Ward

30th Apr No. 52 Orla Cullen

QUB Catholic Chaplaincy Golden Jubilee Gala Ball

Belfast City Hall, Fri 10th June at 7pm. Drinks reception and four-course dinner with wine, and dancing to live band MOJO. Tickets £80 (plus online booking fee), can be secured by the following link: <https://fixr.co/event/catholic-chaplaincy-qub-golden-gala-tickets-384378624>. Limited tickets available for current students, £50, can be reserved by contacting catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk

Dress Code: Black Tie

Sincerely,

Fr Dominic McGrattan, Chaplain