

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## *The Baptism of the Lord*

12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### 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

*The sick and housebound will  
be attended this week*

### *Recently deceased*



*Maurice McElroy, Dromara Road*

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Dechomet

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> John & Margaret Leonard  
Margaret Doyle  
John Fitzpatrick

#### Leitrim

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Pat & Aidan McAnulty

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> James Quail MM

#### Dromara

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Winnie & Jimmy McEvoy  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Dean Tony Davies & Terry Davies

### **Dromore Diocesan Historical Society**

To mark the Jubilee Year 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope"  
the Society's first event of its new programme  
is a talk by James Doran entitled

*"Journey to God through Rome: the shaping of  
the 'modern' Jubilee Year experience".*

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 7:30pm**

Banbridge Parish Centre  
All welcome

Please join the '*Friends of St Michael's Finnis  
Parents Group*' on **Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Jan at 3pm** for a  
great afternoon of **Bingo** in the Parish Hall.  
Doors open at 2:30pm. Good fun, refreshments  
and a great raffle so please come along and  
show your support for the school.

### SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738838191 / Drumg 07825419067

**Diocesan Safeguarding Officer:** Stephen Sherry  
07301246329 / [safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £319 £707

*Thank you for continuing to support your parish*

### **Indulgences in the Jubilee Year 2025**

*"Now the time has come for a new Jubilee,  
when once more the Holy Door will be flung  
open to invite everyone to an intense experience  
of the love of God"* (Spes non confundit, 6).

One of the great graces of the Jubilee Year lies  
in the opportunity it presents us for starting  
afresh, for conversion and restoration of our  
relationship with God. God in his mercy wants  
to forgive our sins. The Jubilee Year provides  
us with opportunities to be free from the  
consequences of sin - past and present - which  
leaves a mark on our lives.

The first step in obtaining the Jubilee indulgence  
is a desire for repentance and conversion.  
We undertake to detach our lives from sin  
- even venial sins.

Secondly, as "pilgrims of hope" during this  
Holy Year, we undertake to receive devoutly the  
Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion,  
and to pray for the Pope's intentions in one  
of the following ways:

- *By pilgrimage or visit to any sacred Jubilee site  
in Rome, the Holy Land; or to one of Ireland's  
National Pilgrimages at Knock, Lough Derg or  
Croagh Patrick; or to a designated local Jubilee  
Church (St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, St Peter's  
Church, Drogheda, or the Cathedral of St Patrick and  
St Colman, Newry). In each case we participate  
in the organised pilgrimage exercises, or  
make a "Jubilee visit", consisting of engaging  
in Eucharistic adoration, meditation and prayer,  
concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of  
Faith and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.*

- *By works of mercy and penance  
Visit someone in need or in difficulty (the sick,  
prisoners, lonely, elderly people, disabled people...)*

Dedicate Friday fasting or abstinence.

Support the defence and protection of  
life in all its phases.

Participate in popular missions, spiritual  
exercises, or formation activities on the  
documents of the Second Vatican Council and  
the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in  
a church or other suitable place.

# Sunday Message

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year C • 12 January 2025 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



## SACRAMENT OF CONNECTION

LK 3:15-16, 21-22

The Baptism of the Lord marks the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. St Luke tells us that after his baptism in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus and a voice from heaven reveals that he is the favoured one of God. Now he is anointed for ministry.

Jesus' baptism marks the start of his public life just as our baptism marks the start of our new life as his brothers and sisters. If we have been baptised as infants, it was our parents and godparents who took on the responsibility of nurturing our relationship with God until such time as we were mature enough to live our Christian faith for ourselves. Adult baptism, on the other hand, is a decision taken by the individual for him or her self. By asking to be baptised they have already discerned that they want to follow Christ.

But baptism is not the end of the journey. As in the case of Jesus, it simply marks the beginning. Washed with water and anointed with oils, we are prepared for the journey ahead. Jesus asked to be baptised not only as an example to us but so that he also would be given the strength to follow his true calling. It is encouraging for us to know that Jesus, the human being, knew his need of God. ■

## REFLECT

**W**e can understand baptism as the sacrament of connection.

First, it connects us with Jesus. Through baptism, we become Jesus' sisters and brothers, intimately united with him. Being connected with Jesus is like being connected to a life source, a sure guiding force. Simply put, he shows us how to live, illumines the path for us to follow.

If we want to know about love, what true love is - we need only look to Jesus. If we want to know about justice and concern for the common good, we look to Jesus. If we want to know about healthy relationships, what they're like, how to foster them, we look to Jesus. If we want to know about forgiveness, its necessity, its awesome liberating power, we look to Jesus. If we want to find true happiness in this world and salvation in the next, we look to Jesus. If we want to know how to live life well, to live with integrity and moral purpose, we look to Jesus. In good times and in bad, we look to Jesus, who always guides our path, who never lets us down - our comforter, our shield, our hope, our rock, our salvation.

Second, baptism connects us with each other. We become sisters and brothers, members of one family. We know the saying, "Blood is thicker than water," and we know what it means. Family comes first. Our blood relatives - grandparents, parents, children, siblings, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins - these are the people who mean most to us, the people we treasure above all others. We'd go to any lengths to protect our family. Blood is thicker than water.

Except that, for Christians, it's the other way around. Water is thicker than blood. The water of baptism is thicker than blood. For through baptism, we become part of a new family, a much larger family, the community of believers, the communion of saints. Baptism connects us intimately with each other.

This means we're responsible for each other. The book of Genesis tells us that God created humanity in God's own image, that every person, every single, solitary, human being, is a reflection of God's very self. All are equal in God's eyes because all are

## DO

You won't remember the day of your baptism (unless you were baptised as an adult), but take some time to think about that day and its significance. What does it mean to you now?

## LEARN

Through our baptism we have become consecrated to Christ, part of a royal priesthood, a holy nation

Through baptism, we are one family, brothers and sisters of Christ and of each other

Our baptism impels us to play a full and active part in the life of the Church

## SAY

"I thank you, Lord, for the gift of faith and for being part of your Church. Help me to serve you faithfully every day."

## PRAY

Think of your local church, of all who have been baptised there. Think of the members of your own family. Pray for them and for all the baptised throughout the world.

made in God's likeness. We must see each other the way God sees us, and relate to each other as family, as one.

But just as our blood family isn't perfect, we know our Christian family isn't perfect either, that we're a long way from being that community of justice, love and peace we are called to be, that our church leadership and institution have also shown themselves to be far from perfect.

Our baptism commits us as members of one family to lives of love and service: to see suffering and try to ease it, see injustice and try to end it, see hunger and try to feed it, see brokenness and try to heal it, see racism and try to defeat it, see war and try to stop it, see any situation where love is lacking and try to fill it, see the example of Jesus and try to follow it.

If we live like this, faithful to our baptismal promises, then on judgement day God will say to us as God said of Jesus at his baptism: "Here is my beloved who makes me proud." ■