

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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12th November 2023

32nd 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
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara



Recently deceased

*Terence Johnston, Portstewart,
formerly Ballymagreehan*

ANNIVERSARIES

LEITRIM

Sat 11th John Joe Malone
Rita O'Hare
James O'Rourke
Mon 13th Patrick & Susan Rice
Wed 15th Anne McAnulty
Bernard J & Mary J Cunningham
PD Cunningham
Sat 18th Kieran McCrickard
Ryan Doyle, Hugh & Rose Ann Doyle
Mick, Mary & Michael Cassidy
& Rosemary Doherty
Deceased Members of Laitroim Fontenoy's

GARGORY

Sun 12th Patsy Quinn
Felix McCartan (*Ballydrummond*)
& Deceased Family Members

DROMARA

Sun 12th Pat King (*Gransha*)
Fri 17th Seamus & Betty McEvoy
& Deceased Family Members
Sun 19th Mary McEvoy, Patrick, Cecilia
& Bridget Gorman (*Ardtanagh*)

Leitrim Cleaners - Nov

Bridie, Maura, Bernie, Patricia (Rodgers)

SVP Dromara 077 3883 8191
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact

Patricia Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£588	£1,550
Priest	£687	£1,840

*Figures include Oct standing orders
Thank you for your contributions.*

*We Welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Grainne Mary McCartan*

Thank you to all the people who assisted with the masses for the Recently Deceased and to all those who came out in remembrance of their loved ones.

November Dead Lists

All envelopes are opened and placed before the altars. They are remembered at all masses in the parishes throughout November. There was £1,255 received, it is not essential to include a donation.

Leitrim Cemetery Lighting

Thank you to AJC for the work. The total cost of the poles, lights, PA system, the laying of cables and the erection work was £18,000. The light switch is on the wooden post as you enter. If you push it the lights will come on for 20 minutes, if leaving early, and you wish to turn them off, just press the button again.

St Michael's Hall

There has been an accumulation of unused equipment in the Hall, on and under the stage. It was agreed that these will be removed and disposed of appropriately. If anyone wishes to collect items and equipment, please contact Mary on 078 5478 0974, as soon as possible. This must be done by 17th Nov.

*St Colman's College Bicentennial
Celebration of Football, 1823-2023*

Canal Court Sat 18th Nov 7pm

Contact: kfranklin940@c2ken.net,

cmurray520@c2ken.net or

rmcmahon809@c2ken.net to book a table,

seat or make a contribution to this unique event.

Please join the '*Friends of St Michael's Parents Group*' on **Sun 3rd Dec** for a great afternoon of *Christmas Bingo* in the Parish Hall. Doors open 2:30pm, Bingo 3pm. **£100 JACKPOT** must go. Good fun, refreshments and a great raffle, so please come along and show your support for the school.

Sunday Message

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 12 November 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



BE PREPARED MT. 25:1-13

Jewish wedding ceremonies in the time of Jesus began in the evening. The families and guests formed a procession to accompany the couple from the bride's family home to her new home with her husband's family. As they drew near, the women members of the groom's family formed a torch lit procession of welcome.

In the parable in today's Gospel, ten girls were to form this procession but only five had thought of bringing oil, so the procession was unlikely to be a resounding success. The wedding suffers another setback: there is a delay in getting proceedings under way, and the girls get tired and fall asleep. Suddenly, towards midnight, word comes that the procession is finally on its way. There is a frantic flurry of activity as the girls form their procession, only to discover that half of the lamps won't light. If they try to stretch out the oil supply enough for five lamps to provide for twice that number, there is every danger the procession will be plunged into darkness after a few minutes. If that happened, the couple and their families would be the laughing stock of the neighbourhood. Instead, the five are sent off to find an oil shop, an unlikely prospect so late at night.

Despite these rather chaotic beginnings, the wedding gets underway. When the five girls return from their frantic shopping expedition, the groom refuses to open the door to them, saying he does not know them.

For Matthew wedding banquets are an image of the kingdom of heaven. What he is saying is that we do not know when the Messiah will return, any more than the girls knew when the bridegroom would come. The girls represent the Christian community waiting for the Messiah's return. Matthew divides them into 'wise and foolish.' He is using them to make one of his favourite points. The time between the resurrection and the return of the Son of Man is not 'empty time.' It is an opportunity for the followers of Jesus to prove they are his genuine disciples by devoting themselves to good works. That time is now. Like the wise bridesmaids, we must stand ready, with our lamps lit. We must not be caught unprepared. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be ever prepared for your coming. Amen."

PRAY

Today's first reading speaks of the importance of wisdom. Pray for the gift of wisdom, so that you will know what is truly important and what is not.

LEARN

The Christian must be ready for the Messiah when he comes in judgement at the end of time. If he does not find us ready, all he can say to us is "I do not know you." Like the wise bridesmaids, we must be faithful witnesses to our vocation, people who live by Christian values of justice, peace and love.

DO

Make an examination of conscience. Are you living in such a way that you are ready to meet the Lord whenever he calls you?

REFLECT

In November 1962, Pope John XXIII received some very bad news. His doctors informed him that he had cancer and that it was inoperable. He had only a few months left to live.

It must have come as a tremendous disappointment to Pope John because there was still so much he wanted to do. Only a few weeks before, he had opened the first session of the Second Vatican Council, the great meeting of the world's bishops that he had summoned to examine church teaching and practice and consider the church's place in the world. Now, he knew he wouldn't be around to guide the Council or to witness its conclusions. He

would be gone before its vital work would be finished. But Pope John's response displayed none of that disappointment or any anxiety about the prospect of death. "A tumour," he replied. "Very well, let God's will be done. But don't worry about me because my bags are packed. I'm ready to go." And there's no doubt that his bags were packed and he was ready to go.

In the Gospel story, the five foolish bridesmaids allowed the oil in their lamps to run out. The wedding was delayed and they hadn't brought enough oil to keep their lamps lit, unlike the five wise bridesmaids who had brought sufficient oil. When the ceremony eventually got

under way, the foolish ones were not allowed to participate in the celebration, they were left outside the door.

The ten bridesmaids represent us - the Christian community - waiting for the Messiah's return. Some are wise and some are foolish; some are prepared for his coming and some are not, some have their lamps lit, others have not. The point is that, like the wise bridesmaids, we must be always prepared, alert, ready for when the bridegroom will come. Like Good Pope John, we must have our bags packed, our lamps lit, for we do not know the day or the hour. ■