

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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5th November 2023

31st 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

November Dead Lists

Available at the back of the churches,
please return as soon as possible.

Masses for Recently Deceased

Dechomet Mon 6th Nov 7:30pm

Leitrim Wed 8th Nov 7:30pm

Dromara Fri 10th Nov 7:30pm

*Memory Cards can be placed
before the altars in the churches*

*The names of those buried in the adjoining
cemeteries over the past year will be read
out and a member of the family will be
asked to bring forth a candle. There will
be an opportunity to bring forth a candle
remembering those who have died longer
than a year ago who are buried elsewhere.*



Recently deceased

Kevin Burns, Riverside, Leitrim

ANNIVERSARIES

2024 Anniversary Book is now open

LEITRIM

Sat 4th Pauline Kelly
Rose McAleenan & Deceased
Family Members

Alice McAnulty
Sat 11th John Joe Malonoe
Rita O'Hare

GARGORY

Sun 5th Betty McGreevy
Sun 12th Patsy Quinn

DROMARA

Sun 5th Sarah Hughes (*Finnis*)
Michael Rice

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £ 339 £901

SA Hospice £374 £1,017

Thank you for your contributions.

The sick and housebound will be attended
this week. If you are currently not able to
come out to mass, please let me know.

The next of *The Five Consecutive First Saturday*
of the month devotions, will continue on
Sat 4th Nov in Dechomet with the Rosary
(*and confessions*) at 5:30 pm, the 6pm Mass,
followed by a 15 minute meditation.

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

Confessions can be obtained within 20 days.

Drumgooland Parish Council

(short) Meeting Mon 6th Nov at 8:30pm.

*We Welcome into Dromara Parish
Oisín Edward McNeill, and
Eirínn Josephine McAteer*

St Malachy's High School, Castlewella
presents its upcoming School Production:

"Matilda JR" the Musical.

Wed 8th Nov to Fri 10th Nov 7:30pm

Sat 11th Nov 2.30pm & 7:30pm

Adults £10 / Concession £7

Tickets available from the school office.

It promises to be a spectacular showcase of
our students' talents and creativity!

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine for Parents

Sat 2nd – Sun 3rd Dec

departing early Sat, returning Sun 7:30pm

Please forward names & contact number to:

youthdirector@dromorediocese.org

by 17th Nov. Places are limited.

Leitrim Cleaners - Nov

Bridie, Maura, Bernie, Patricia (Rodgers)

SVP Dromara 077 3883 8191

Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact

Patricia Carville 077 8991 7741

Sunday Message

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 5 November 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



It would be easy to focus on the wrong-doings of the Pharisees this week, and to gain a perverse kind of satisfaction from Jesus' annoyance with these spiritual leaders for telling people to live one way while living a different way themselves.

Naturally, we would never want to be seen to act in such a way ourselves - but this can lead us to a false sense of pride. In our attempts to do what is right, in our conviction that our way of seeing and doing things is the correct one, it is not hard to fall into the trap of believing ourselves to be 'all perfect' while seeing others as sinners!

It is true that Jesus often seems to come into conflict with the Pharisees and Scribes. But this was not so much because of their interpretation of the law as the hypocritical way they used it to oppress ordinary people and to control their lives.

There is a lesson in this for us. When we start to dictate to others in our families or communities or parishes about how they should or should not be, we run the risk of losing sight of the spirit of the law as given to us by Jesus. We need to be careful that we practise what we claim to profess. ■

PRAY

Pray for Church leaders and for all Christians, that the example we give will lead people to God.

SAY

"Lord, help me to practice what I profess. May I always be faithful to you. Amen."

LEARN

We are always in need of conversion

The Christian must never allow the failings of Church leaders and other Christians to obscure the truth of the Gospel message

DO

During the month of November, make a special effort to visit the graves of loved ones.

REFLECT

Just over a century ago, from 1913-21, Woodrow Wilson was president of America. His time in office coincided with the First World War. Wilson was a bright man, having been head of Princeton University before winning the White House. As son of a Presbyterian minister, he was also deeply religious.

Wilson came to office with high ideals. As a devout Christian, he believed in the primacy of morality in politics. Politics was about doing the moral thing. He was described as the great moralist. And that's what he tried to be.

After the devastation of World War I, Wilson outlined his vision for a new world order, a just world where peoples and nations would shape their own destinies, where colonialism and oppression would be no more. He proposed setting up a League of Nations to prevent war. The League would settle international disputes and protect the interests of smaller countries. Unfortunately, that noble plan failed, and 20 years later, another world war took place.

Wilson was an idealist, but there was a problem - his own moral blind spots. While supporting the rights of the weak abroad, he ignored the plight of the weak in his own country. He opposed women's

demand for the right to vote. And he supported systemic racism. A native of the Deep South, he was sympathetic to the Ku Klux Klan and reintroduced segregation in the civil service. This moral failing has damaged Wilson's reputation.

Of course, it's dangerous to get too sanctimonious about Wilson or others whose words and actions don't always match. Humans are prone to hypocrisy. It happens in politics; it happens in business and in relationships. It happens in the church. The clerical abuse scandals shocked Catholics to the core and left them wondering how so many priests and religious could have behaved in such a hypocritical manner. The church's credibility was undermined, because the gap between what they professed and what they did (or didn't do) was obvious for all to see. It will be very difficult to get that credibility back.

As Christians, we need to ensure there is no gap between what we profess in church and how we live out there. Our words and deeds must always spring from a life lived in Jesus.

Today's Gospel offers three points for reflection we should think about.

First is an admission: I am not perfect. None of us is perfect. We are all frail,

fragile, broken people, who sin and fail and sin and fail. It's something we all have in common from the top down. It is important to acknowledge our weakness, our sinfulness. Salutary to admit we are not perfect, that there may even be a hint of the hypocrite in me. The first step is acknowledging my sinfulness.

Second is the need for frequent self-scrutiny. Knowing I'm not perfect, I need to examine my life regularly. I have blind spots. We all have blind spots we may not be aware of. We need to look at our attitudes, our behaviours, our prejudices, our habits, to see if there's any inconsistencies between what we profess and how we live. Is there any hint of the hypocrite in me? The second step to examine my life.

Third is the need for constant conversion. Having looked at our lives, we seek to change, to mature, to grow. Because we're not perfect, it's hard to live like we should. We make mistakes; we need constant conversion. What attitudes do I have, what behaviours do I engage in, that need changing? How well do I love God and my neighbour, no matter who that neighbour is? Step three is to change whatever needs changing.

Three practical steps to reduce the danger of hypocrisy. ■