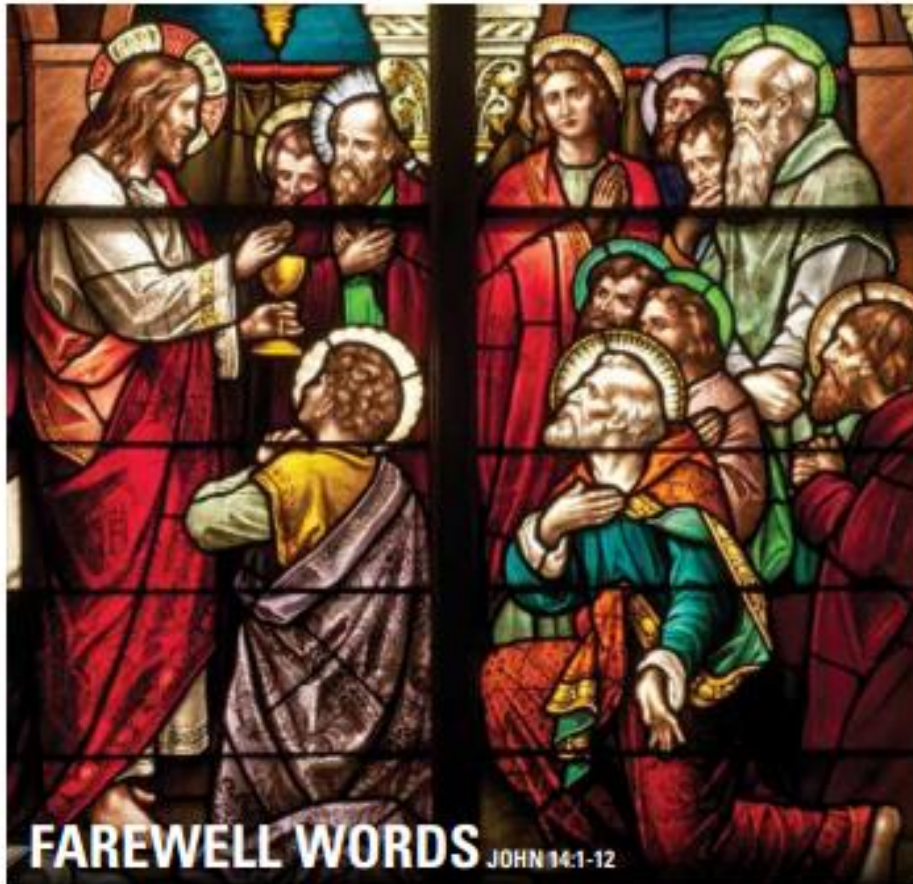


Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 7 May 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



REFLECT

In the second reading, St Peter provides a beautiful description of who we are as Christians. He tells us that we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart. (It's a description that has been incorporated into one of the prefaces of the Mass.)

These words sum up who we are and what we have become by virtue of our baptism. They bring home to us what a grace and privilege it is to be 'chosen,' 'consecrated,' 'set apart' by God. We are royalty; we are special.

These are immensely consoling and reassuring words because they tell us that's how God sees us and values us. He has chosen us, consecrated us, set us apart. And because that's how God sees us, it's how we are called to see others and ourselves too.

These are also challenging words because they demand that we live like people who are chosen, priestly, set apart. Everything that we do must reflect the status that God has given us. ■

PRAY

Today's Gospel is very popular at funerals. Pray for your deceased loved ones, that they may be enjoying eternal life in the Father's house.

SAY

"Lord, help me to follow your way, live your truth, and model my life on yours. Amen."

LEARN

If we want to know what God is like, we need look no further than Jesus

Jesus shows us the way to salvation

God has made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood

DO

Look at yourself in the mirror. Try to see yourself as God sees you.

Today's Gospel is taken from the last of the great discourses in John's Gospel. It is known as the Farewell Discourse and is the final teaching Jesus delivers to his disciples at the Last Supper.

Jesus' farewell message looks to the future. He offers words of comfort to those he is leaving behind. They are to trust in God as he did. They will be reunited in the Father's house. In ancient times, when a group of travellers needed accommodation for the night, they often sent one of their number ahead to reserve a place in the inn. He comforts them by telling them that the accommodation in the Father's house is more luxurious than that of a rough and ready inn. It has many rooms, so they shouldn't worry about being refused entry. He will return when the place is prepared and take them with him.

Some of the disciples are puzzled. If they don't know where Jesus is going, Thomas asks, how will they find the way? Jesus replies with one of the great 'I AM' sayings: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one can come to the Father except through me." Just as he is the gate that offers protection and freedom of movement for his flock to the pastures of eternal life, he is also the way to God. To have known Jesus is to know the Father.

This prompts another reply, this time from Philip. For Philip, it would be enough just to see the Father. Philip may be echoing a story about Moses. Even when God appeared to him on Mount Sinai, Moses never saw God's face. The Jews believed that humans could not see God. The sight was so powerful they could not endure it, so God usually makes himself present through symbols like fire or a thick cloud. Moses begged to be allowed to see God's face. As a special privilege, Moses was allowed to stand in a cleft of the rock and to see God's back as he departed from the mountain (Ex 33:18-23).

Seen in this light, Philip's request that they be allowed to see the Father is breathtaking. But Jesus' reply would be even more breathtaking for a Jewish audience: to have seen Jesus is to have seen the Father. This can only be understood in the light of the opening hymn of John's Gospel (Jn 1:1-18). Jesus is the word of God who has taken flesh and dwelt among us. He has allowed God's glory to shine in the world through his presence among us. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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7th May 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Anniversaries

Dechomet

Sat 6th Susan Greeran
Sat 13th James & Mary Catherine Doyle

Leitrim

Sat 6th Tommy & Joe Bannon
Theresa & Charlie O'Higgins
Martin Brown
Barnie Cowan
James & Esther O'Rourke
Sat 13th John Murphy

Gargory

Sun 7th John Donnelly

Dromara

Sun 7th John & Mary Drake
Sun 14th Barbara Louise Gordon (MM)

Candles & Petitions (Lourdes Pilgrimage 17th-22nd May)

Anyone wishing to have candles lit, or petitions placed at the Grotto, please speak to any Committee member, or petitions can be received at our **Pre-Pilgrimage Mass Fri 12th May** at 7.30pm in Finnis.

The **Annual Youth Collection** (for programmes and activities: Pope John Paul II Award, Summer Camps, Knock Volunteering Programme, GIFT-Growing in Faith Together, Faith Friends, Youth ALPHA/NUA, Social Action Initiatives, School Retreats, Pilgrimages and much more) will be taken up on the weekend of 20th/21st May.

There is a 'Youth Ministry' envelope in your box of envelopes, dated 21st May. Please donate generously to the initiatives offered by the Diocesan Youth Com. For more information email our Diocesan Youth Director Frances McNally at: youthdirector@dromorediocese.org

SVDP: Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067

Safeguarding Contact: P Carville 07789917741

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£238	£892

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Meabh Isla Ward

Trócaire

So far £4,782 has come in from both parishes. It would be helpful to have all donations received by the end of May in order to forward the money to Trócaire. On behalf of all who will benefit from your generosity, thank you very much.

First Saturday Devotions Please join us, beginning **6th May** in Dechomet chapel, for The Five Consecutive First Saturday devotions, where we will participate in Confessions, 15 minute meditation, the Rosary and receive the Eucharist, in order to make preparation to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart and respond to Her plan for peace as requested in Fatima. Confessions available from 5:30pm but can be obtained within 20 days. Meditation and Rosary will be offered a few minutes after 6pm Mass ends. Everyone is most welcome to stay on and join in.

Bingo

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group' for the final bingo session of this academic year on **Sun 7th May** at 3pm in St Michael's Hall. Doors open 2:30pm. **OVER £550 PRIZE MONEY MUST GO!** Also raffle and refreshments, please come along & show your support for the school.

Cemetery Sunday 21st May

Gargory after 9am mass	Dromara 12 noon
Leitrim 3pm	Dechomet 5pm

The day works well due to the many volunteers who help with the parking of cars, collections, readings, etc. If you can help in any way, please step forward. Parking for the less-abled will be reserved as follows:

Finnis and Leitrim - church car parks
Dechomet - front of the church (Closkelt Road). Please co-operate with those who are generous enough to assist with the parking. Please do not park in a way that blocks a private entrance. A collection will be taken up at each service towards the cost of maintaining the cemeteries.