

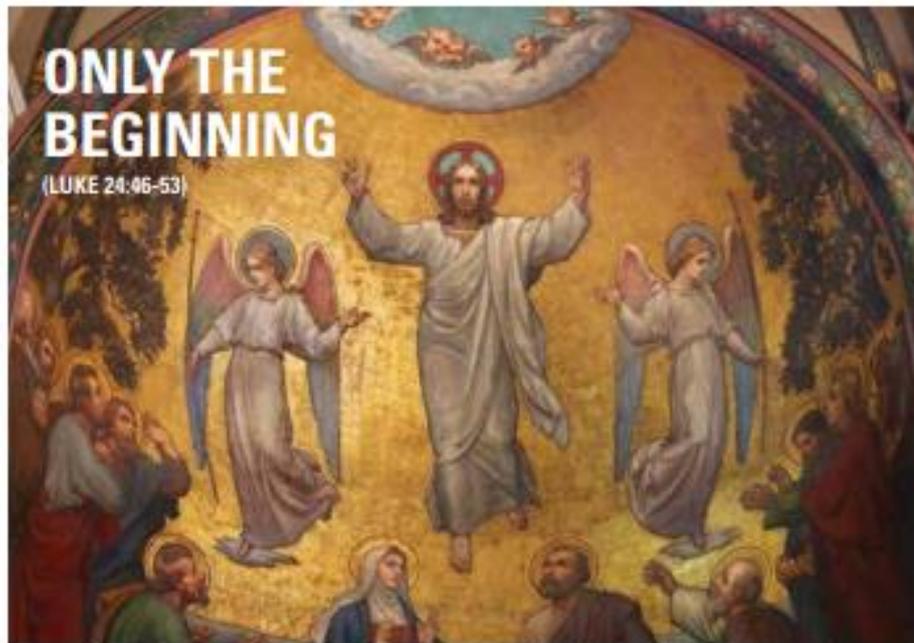
29 MAY 2022

Sunday Message

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3



ONLY THE BEGINNING

(LUKE 24:46-53)

Fresco of the Ascension of Jesus, in side apse of the Church of St Wenceslas, Prague

Luke tells us in today's gospel reading of Jesus' final meeting with his disciples. Once again Jesus reminds them that all that has happened to him was written down in the Hebrew Scriptures and therefore was the will of God.

During his ministry, Jerusalem was the focus of his journey, the place where his destiny and God's salvation would be accomplished. Now, the holy city will become the hub from which the Gospel will spread out to the world, and the disciples will be responsible for this. Jesus promises them the gift of the Spirit which they will receive when Jesus sends it.

When they go to Bethany, Jesus confers on them the blessing which Zechariah was unable to give to the people in the Temple at the beginning of Luke's narrative, then we are told simply that he "was carried up to heaven". The disciples do not see any reason to break with their ancestral religion and practices and continue to frequent the Temple for worship. Thus ends Luke's Gospel; but this is by no means the end of the story. Jesus' outreach and ministry will continue, but now through his disciples, empowered as they will be by the Holy Spirit. The last report we have of them is that they are "continually in the Temple, praising God". We have heard throughout Luke's narrative that this is the proper reaction to Jesus' works of power; it is therefore a fitting conclusion to the entire earthly life and ministry of Jesus. ■

REFLECT

Luke gives us two accounts, separated by 40 days, of the ascension of Jesus, which suggests that this event fulfils two literary functions. At the end of the gospel, it brings to an end the experience the disciples had of the risen Jesus, which we normally call the 'appearances', and the version at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles is more connected with the coming of the Spirit in the dramatic recounting of Pentecost, which Luke alone relates.

The Ascension teaches an essential lesson about the Easter mystery. If we had only the narratives concerning the circumstances around the empty tomb of Jesus, we might conclude that Jesus had been simply brought back to life, like Lazarus of Bethany or the son of the widow of Nain; he would have been restored to the existence which he had lost. The Ascension emphasises that Jesus has been taken up to God in glory and now enjoys a different kind of life with God. The two aspects are different

SAY

Christ has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope.

(Preface of the Feast of the Ascension)

LEARN

The Ascension tells us that Jesus now enjoys a glorified life in God's presence.

Luke gives two accounts of this event: the first at the end of the gospel, on the day of the discovery of the empty tomb;

We find the second at the beginning of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, which is set 40 days later.

The first version brings to an end the appearances of the risen Jesus to the disciples; the second is more related to the coming of the Spirit.

DO

When you are in a lift or on an escalator, think about Jesus being taken up to heaven and think about where you imagine him to be now.



sides of the one coin, but the demands of telling a story require that we separate them.

Jesus' last act is to bless his disciples, who are most probably the larger group, including women, than just the twelve apostles. We can see this from the beginning of Acts and deduce it from the entry into Jerusalem, possibly the Last Supper and the accompanying of Jesus to Gethsemane. They are the ones awaiting Jesus' sending of the Spirit. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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The Ascension of The Lord – 29th 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

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 28th Denis and Roseann O'Prey; Annie Moorehead; Joe and Agnes McEvoy
Sat 4th Janet, Christopher, Philomena and Owen Rice

Dromara

Sun 29th Vincent and Desmond O'Hare; Rosey Williams
Fri 3rd Kevin O'Hare; Jerome Fitzsimmons
Fri 10th Sarah McGrillen; Maureen McGrillen and Joe McEvoy

Dechomet

Mon 30th Patsy Greeran and Deceased Family Members
Sat 4th Aisling O'Donnell and Pat Doyle
Seamus and Phyllis Doyle; Kathleen and Matt Ward and Deceased Family Members

Dromara Readers Nicola Brennan has agreed to coordinate the rota, please contact her at 075 1414 9631, so that she has your contact details.

Gargory Altar Society: June - Ann Marie

Congratulations to Michelle Rooney and Rick Hynds who were married recently

Coffee Morning, hosted by Stephen Morgan Funeral Directors, in aid of Slieve Croob Community First Responders in Newcastle Parish Centre Sat 11th June 10:00am to 12:30pm

SMA Dromantine, Open Day & Family Fun Day
Sun 12th Jun 1:00pm to 5:30pm. Everyone Welcome.
£5 car adm. For more information tel: 02830821964.

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£668	£544

Cemetery Thank you to all who attended the services last Sunday and to all who helped make them flow so well. Deep gratitude is owed to those who provided places to park, to the stewards who helped people park and get away safely. Thank you to all who read, sang, led the rosaries, collected or supplied the P.A. systems. The collections on the day were very generous: Dromara £597; Leitrim £2,625; Dechomet £588. There have been more donations received since then.

Thank you to P McCartan and Sons for the two memorial stones in Leitrim and Dechomet. These were part of the former Ballymagreehan Altar Stone in Leitrim. They are to remember the Babies who died before baptism, and all those buried in the cemetery in unmarked graves.

Trócaire: Dromara £2,623.50; Drumgooland £4,851.60, this includes cheques that were made out to Trócaire. This money has been forwarded to the diocese who will forward to Trócaire this month in order to qualify for matched funding, which means Trócaire has gained £14,950 due to your generosity. This does not include the gift aid it will claim on the amounts signed for. On behalf of those who depend upon it for survival and a new beginning, Thank You. Any donations received from this weekend onwards, as well as donations in the St Anthony boxes, will be passed onto Trócaire later in the year.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society - Online
Lecture by Una Walsh, entitled "A Tour of Creggan" on Mon 30th May at 7:30pm. A link can be obtained by e-mailing the Hon Secretary goss.jjm@gmail.com and will be forwarded on Mon 30th May

Cross Community Service, led by Canon Keith Ineson, at Lagan Park Centre, Hillsborough Road, Dromara, Sun 5th June at 3:30pm, everyone is welcome to attend.

Please take a copy of the 2021 Financial Report

There will not be a bulletin printed next week