

10 JULY 2022

Sunday Message

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



WHOSE NEIGHBOUR ARE YOU? (LUKE 10:25-37)

In today's Gospel extract, we hear of a hostile encounter between a lawyer, who obviously wants to catch Jesus out on a point of law, and Jesus himself. Jesus sidesteps the trap of being lured into a legalistic debate on theoretical questions by getting straight to the heart of the matter: what is the moral value at stake here?

Jesus answers his interrogator by placing love of one's neighbour equivalent to one's love of God. Love, in the Bible, does not refer to an emotional attachment, but has more the sense of proper treatment, respect, concern. Jesus' illustration by the parable of the Good Samaritan is an exquisite treatment of this theme. We are, in our reading of today's gospel during Mass, in Samaria, a region in which the hostility towards Jesus and other pilgrims to Jerusalem would be particularly acute. Hence, Jesus' reference to official religious figures is especially critical: the wounded individual may be dead, therefore to approach his corpse rendered anyone who approached it ritually impure and therefore excluded from public worship and community activities.

The person who shows human, and religious, compassion for the injured person, whom the others may not realise to be still alive, is one of the most despised groups in cultural Jewish thought at the time.

Jesus turns the lawyer's question back on him. His questioner asks, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus is posing the question the opposite way round: "Whose neighbour are you?" ■

LEARN

Jesus is not concerned about the finer points or academic point of the Law;

Jesus concentrates on the values which the Law seeks to promote.

To present a Samaritan as the hero of the parable instead of the priest or the Levite would have profoundly shocked the readers of the Gospel.

The poor and those on the margins of social and religious society were people of particular concern to Jesus in Luke's version of the Gospel.

DO

Find out who in your community is in need: they are your neighbour, and you are theirs.



SAY

**You must love the Lord
your God... and your
neighbour as yourself,
(Luke 10:27)**

REFLECT

A parish priest once went into his local primary school. A little girl stood up to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan, but became stuck at a particular part of the tale. She kept repeating, "The priest passed by ... the priest passed by." Eventually the parish priest interrupted and said, "All right: don't rub it in!"

It is perhaps worth reflecting for a little on the characters in our gospel reading today. The priest and the Levite are very much figures from the religious

establishment of their time. In their way of thinking, they cannot approach the figure lying at the side of the road: if he is dead, then they are, in their turn, contaminated and unable to carry out their responsibilities according to the Law, which is uppermost in their understanding of their religious duties.

On the other hand, the priest and Levite would regard the Samaritan as a heretic. But Jesus is saying that he, out of the three of them, understood better what the Law was actually

teaching. Theoretically, the priest and Levite were acting correctly: but Jesus is saying: "What is more important: the letter of the Law or the person lying injured by the side of the road?" The despised Samaritan has got it right and understood God's teaching.

Many Christians are obsessed with the rights and wrongs of the finer details of Church doctrine and liturgy rather than the values which these present. Perhaps we all need to be more like the Samaritan. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 10 July 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

I will be away on holiday from Sun 17th July to
Fri 5th August

Recently deceased Kathleen O'Hare, Carryduff

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 9th Kathleen Bannon
Sat 16th Shane, Winnie and Barney Owens
Brian Donnelly

Dromara

Sun 10th Kevin Doyle
Michael McGrillen
Fri 15th Pat's John O'Hare (Dree)

Dechomet

Sat 16th Margaret and Gerry Quail

Bone Marrow Donor Urgent Appeal

Can you consider joining the Bone Marrow Register,
in response to the appeal on behalf of young Daniel
Greer from Newry?

Do It For Daniel

Please sign up now:

For those living in Northern Ireland:

www.dkms.org.uk/register-now

For those living in the Republic of Ireland:

www.giveblood.ie/bone-marrow

Anthony Nolan donor list (includes 16 year olds):

www.anthonynolan.org

World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA):

<https://wmda.info/donor/become-a-donor/>

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£565	£1790
Priest	£664	£1293
Education of Priests	£158	£393

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Harper Kane
and Aodhan McAnulty

Southern Area Hospice Services

Could you give a regular gift to Hospice?

Making a monthly donation is one of the kindest
ways you can support Southern Area Hospice
Services. By donating a small amount on a monthly
basis – as little as £5, you are significantly
contributing to the vital work of the hospice, helping
us plan for the future.

Knowing we can depend on a regular source of
income really helps us budget and plan for the
future, something which can be very difficult in the
often-unpredictable world of fundraising and
particularly given the challenges of the pandemic
and the ongoing cost of living crisis which we all
face. Southern Area Hospice Services are dedicated
to continuing to support patients and their families
and by becoming a Regular Giver your contribution
will really help make a difference to them at one of
the most difficult times in their lives.

By signing up to give a monthly donation from as
little as £5 per month, you're becoming part of this
dedicated team. We simply wouldn't be here
without the ongoing backing of people in our local
community, so we thank you all for your continued
support.

To sign up as a regular giver or for more
information visit:

www.southernareahospiceservices.org

or, call Denise on 028 302 67711.