

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4



JESUS AMONG US

(LUKE 9:11-17)

The miracle of Jesus feeding the multitude with loaves of bread and fish: scene from the Cathedral of St Rumbold in Mechelen, Belgium

Jesus' initial reaction to the arrival of the crowds is to welcome them, teach them and cure those in need of healing.

There is no suggestion that the people concerned are actually hungry and the episode can be read, as all the 'miracle' stories can be understood, as symbolic, that is, that there is a deeper meaning to these actions of Jesus. The mention of twelve baskets reinforces this idea.

The way in which we refer to this incident is important: it is better to describe it as 'the feeding of the crowds' rather than 'the multiplication of the loaves'. The latter phrase concentrates on the 'miraculous' aspect of the event, but the New Testament uses the expression 'works of power', emphasising that this is the power, the kingdom of God breaking into the lives of people in need. The scriptural background to this story is God's providing food for the people of Israel during their journey through the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land: there is a hint about this in the disciples' remark to Jesus that "we are in a desert place here", rather than "a lonely place" as our text renders it. Jesus is thus echoing God's concern by providing food for the people, and the disciples share in his ministry by distributing the bread to those present, who number five thousand men: interestingly, in his account of the same incident, Matthew adds "to say nothing of women and children".

We might note how Luke describes Jesus' actions: he takes the bread, says the blessing, breaks it and gives it: this is the language we find used at the Last Supper in connection with the institution of the Eucharist. The feeding of the crowds foreshadows the institution of the Eucharist, which, in its turn, anticipates the banquet in the final Messianic Kingdom. ■

LEARN

The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle story recorded in all four gospels.

It is Jesus who provides bread for the people in the desert (lonely) place, just as God did for Israel in their journey through the wilderness.

The feast of Corpus Christi was one of the most popular celebrations with processions of the Blessed Sacrament.

This feast was the lay version of Holy Thursday, which also celebrated the institution of the priesthood.

SAY

**How can He deny me heaven,
who here on earth Himself
has given?**

(St Alphonsus Liguori)

DO

As you receive holy communion, renew your belief that you are actually welcoming Jesus into your very self.



REFLECT

It is easy to become preoccupied with how this event took place: there are some plausible rationalisations which explain away the 'miraculous' element and reduce it to an act of sharing on the part of the people present: some might suggest that that would be an even greater miracle. But we have to ask ourselves: 'What does the account mean?' rather than 'Did it actually happen?' or 'How did it happen?'

Perhaps we might concentrate on the idea of Jesus nourishing the people who have come to him. It is important to keep in mind that none of the four gospel accounts of this incident state that those present were actually hungry. In our celebration of the Eucharist, we see connections with the feeding in the two parts, word and sacrament. Jesus nourishes our mind, our faith and understanding of what it means for our

everyday lives in the light of the Word of God: hence preaching is a grave responsibility for those concerned. We are further sustained by receiving Jesus into ourselves in the form of bread and wine. This presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine is the focus of today's feast. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – 19th June 2022

There will not be any weekday masses this week

Retreat

I will be away on Retreat from Mon 20th June to Wed 29th June.

For emergency sick calls or in the case of a death, please try Fr Brian Brown, 074 9673 1619

If anyone wishes to book an anniversary mass when I am not here, please leave a note in the letterbox, or a message on the answering machine, or send an email. The bulletin is prepared on a Thursday morning, so please leave your messages before then.

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet
7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory
11:00am Dromara

There is space and a welcome for you at mass. Please know that you are welcome at the weekend masses and during the week.

The past two years has created a huge change in our patterns of living and how we pray. Whilst mass has been available on RTE and streamed at parish level as well as on many platforms, the prayer of being present and receiving Eucharist is the call to all of us.

Whilst covid is still present in the community, it is thankfully safer to gather in church than it was. May I appeal, in particular, to our young people and children, you are always welcome.

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Charlie McAlarney

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£229	£569

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 18th Bernadette Savage
Deceased Members of the McAleenan Family (Ballymagreehan)
Hugh and Mary Murray (Legananny)
Sat 25th Michael McElroy

Gargory

Sun 19th Noel King

Dechomet

Sat 25th James O'Hare

Dromara

Sun 26th Hugh McCoubry (Derry)
Liz and Joe Gordon (Drumkeeragh)

Diocesan Synodal Pathway Report can be found on the diocesan website:
www.dromorediocese.org

Lough Derg Pilgrimages

Three-Day Pilgrimages in Jun, Jul and Aug. Pilgrimage, in the words of Pope Francis, is *"the most eloquent expression of the faith of God's people"*
info@loughderg.org
www.loughderg.org
00353719861518

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Mon 27th Jun at 7:30pm The Society will host an on-site walking tour by Jim Conway, entitled *"The History of the Dougher"*
Jim Conway is a prominent local historian in Lurgan with a deep knowledge of the Dougher Church and graveyard. Members and friends wishing to attend should assemble at the Victoria St., Lurgan access to the site for the event to begin at 7:30pm.