

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: dromaradrumgooland@dmorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

20th August 2023 20th 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

Tue 9:00am Dromara

Wed 7:30pm Leitrim

Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Recently deceased

Fergus McCartan

Canada, formerly Ballymagreehan

ANNIVERSARIES

DECHOMET

Sat 19th Agnes Rooney

Sat 26th Timothy Doyle

LEITRIM

Wed 23rd Bernard Cunningham

Sat 26th Shane, Winnie & Barney Owens
Fr Jim Kerr

DROMARA

Sun 20th Alice Lundy and Mageenan
& McCann Families

Sun 27th Elizabeth McCoubry (*Derry*)

SVdP: Dromara 077 3883 8191
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact:

P Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£380	£853

Sign of Peace

Covid19 has been on the increase in the local area so the sign of peace will not be used over the coming weeks. Hand sanitiser is still available at the back of the churches

Confirmation & First Communion

If you have a child that does not attend a catholic primary school and you wish your child to receive the sacraments, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible.

New Altar Servers will be recruited in September. If any existing server wishes to step back, please let me know.

Dromara SVdP

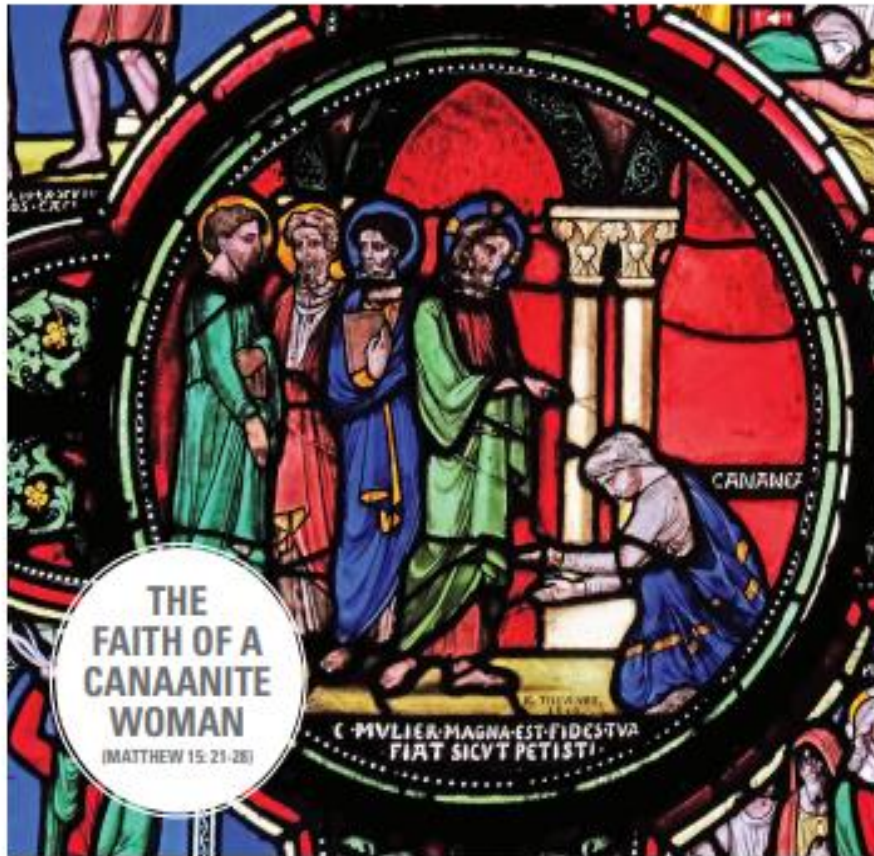
New Volunteers required urgently. To find out more about SVdP please phone the Helpline (077 3883 8191) or speak to any SVdP volunteer so as training can be arranged.

Drumgooland SVdP

Do you need help providing **School Uniforms** for your children? Subject to funding, Drumgooland SVdP may be able to help towards this expense. Please contact us at:
078 2541 9067

We Welcome into Dromara Parish
Olivia Mary Fitzpatrick





THE FAITH OF A CANAANITE WOMAN (MATTHEW 15: 21-28)

The Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and due to her persistence, the disciples are keen that she is sent away. In their eyes, there is no good to be done for this woman.

This Gospel story might be considered confusing or contradictory for us believers. When have we ever witnessed Jesus respond to a request with silence? Probably never. There is even a harsh reference made by Jesus when he equates the Canaanite woman to the dogs in the street who are given scraps of food meant for deserving children. But the key to this Gospel is the persistence of the woman and her unwavering faith in Jesus' power to heal.

There are many theories as to the meaning behind Jesus' actions and behaviour in this story. One conclusion from commentator Bishop Robert Barron is that Jesus is not testing this woman in a negative way. He is testing her in order that she might know how great her faith is. He is preparing her to receive the gift he wants to give her. Indeed Jesus gives the daughter of the Canaanite woman the gift of healing she so greatly needs. ■

DO

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do in the Church. Take some time this week to meditate on the mystery of God's loving and compassionate presence in the world. Use a short passage from the Gospels to help you if you wish.



LEARN

'Pray constantly . . . always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.'
(1 Thess 5:17)

'For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.'

(St. Thérèse of Lisieux)

SAY

'Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.'

(St. Thomas Aquinas)

REFLECT

Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote a famous book over thirty five years ago called, 'When bad things happen to good people.' The international bestseller, attempted to look at why there is suffering in the world and why people of faith have to endure such hardship and tragedy in their lives. As a young dad, Harold had to cope with the tragedy of the death of his first born child. It was a very difficult time in his life and forced him to revisit everything he had been taught, mainly that God is all-powerful and all-knowing. Some people asked him at the time if he thought the death of his child was part of God's plan? But Harold replied, 'If that were God's plan, it's a bad bargain. I don't want to have to deal with a God like that.' So he came up with two conclusions after much prayer and reflection. He said, 'God was all-powerful in the beginning but God chose to designate two areas of life off-limits to his power. He would not interfere with laws of nature and secondly, he would not take away our freedom to choose between good and evil.'

We can possibly identify with the Canaanite woman's situation in today's Gospel. Her daughter is very sick and she asks Jesus for healing. The response from Jesus is not immediate. As a matter of fact, she is greeted with silence. Have you ever been in the same situation? You pray for something, a miracle perhaps, a healing for a family member or neighbour, and nothing happens. It is one of the greatest challenges we face in our faith. The Canaanite woman perseveres for she knows that God listens with compassion and love. We pray for the same gift of faith and perseverance in our own lives. ■