

# Sunday Message

## THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 3

### WHAT DID THEY DO TO DESERVE THAT?

(LUKE 13:1-9)



Depiction of Pontius Pilate washing his hands

This is the second time that the name of Pilate has occurred in Luke's narrative. This Roman official had a reputation for ruthlessly dealing with anyone he saw as a troublemaker, so as we are in Lent, and following Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem, we have a hint of what is to come.

The common attitude of the time was that misfortune was the result of sin, which Jesus seems to accept. But his teaching is that the tragic fate of these people of Galilee does not indicate that they were particularly guilty of any offence more serious than anyone else. Nor were those crushed under a toppling building in Jerusalem. Rather, Jesus is emphasising just how precarious human life can be; his listeners should not take life and health for granted, nor put off being converted and living a decent life under the Word of God. A sudden death may not be due to divine punishment, but it may happen all the same.

The second section of our gospel reading concentrates on the fig tree which fails to produce fruit. A fruitful tree is a sign of God's blessing, and we find examples of the fig, the olive, the grape-bearing vine as positive proof of God's care for the people. We note that the person in charge of the garden argues, politely, with the landowner, to give the plant another and final chance. This echoes the message of the first passage, that no one can put off indefinitely the effort to reorder and reorient their lives. ■

## REFLECT

Recent times have shown us how precarious human life actually is. The forces of nature, wind, storm, flood and fire have wreaked havoc on our human societies and cities, and on our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world. Perhaps it might help our understanding and attitude if we thought of Nature as a living force. Then the events which have caused so much suffering to so many people would be not so much due to unpredictable disasters as to human beings upsetting the balance

between ourselves and what we call the 'natural world'.

If we consider the two examples which Jesus gives in the first part of our gospel today, we find that the calamities he mentions may well be interpreted, according to the official doctrine of retribution (fidelity is rewarded, disloyalty is punished), as the judgment of God. But if we consider the two cases, we could say that the first is due to the cruel and cynical decision of the Roman governor;

## LEARN

Pontius Pilate was finally removed from office for cruelty and exiled to Gaul, present-day France.

Personal disaster, such as illness, poverty or other misfortune, was often seen in biblical terms as the result of sin in the person's life.

A good harvest of wheat, figs, grapes, olives was seen as a blessing from God; sterility in a woman, lack of fruit in crops was regarded as God's withholding of blessing.

## SAY

**The Lord's is the earth and its fullness: the world and all its peoples**

(Psalm 24:1)

## DO

When you see reports of the next natural disaster, ask yourself what you can do to address climate change.



the second may well be attributed to shoddy building workmanship.

One of the unfortunate effects of the Jewish and Christian view of what we call 'salvation history' has been the separation of God's intervening in history – in the Exodus event, in the person of Jesus – and the world of Nature. Perhaps we need to see Nature as a living force, protesting violently against human abuse of the environment, and to respond accordingly. ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Third Sunday of Lent – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### 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

Please feel free to come to mass. The ribbons are slowly reducing and will be removed by the end of March. If you can keep a social distance from someone, please do so. Thank you for sanitising your hands, cleaning the seats, etc. and wearing face coverings. If you think you might have the virus, please do not come at that time.

**Recently deceased** Noleen Hardy, Tullynasoo Road

### Anniversary Masses

#### Leitrim

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Anne McCabe  
Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Paddy Savage; Patsy McKay; Martin McDonald and Deceased Family Members  
Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Kathleen Cunningham

#### Dromara

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Pearl McEvoy  
Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Art Gilmore; Paddy and Eileen Dillon

#### Dechomet

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Stephen McElroy

#### Gargory

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Brigid King

### Cemetery Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**St Michael's Hall** - the water has been treated, fire-fighting equipment and electrics have all been checked. The Hall has had a deep clean, the chairs are currently being cleaned and treated. If any Group wishes to use the Hall, please let us know and a meeting between interested Users will be arranged. All Users will need to protect and care for other Users as well as their own Group.

### Mother's Day Flower Workshop

Peter Morgan's Cottage, Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Mar at 2pm.  
Make and keep your own floral arrangement.  
All Materials provided.  
Contact Michelle Bradley on 07922952011 or via Facebook @floraldesignsbymichelle

### Collections

	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£285	£755
Sick & Retired Priests	£220	£425

New boxes of envelopes are ready for distribution. These begin on the second weekend of April. Thank you for your very generous support over the past two years. If you prefer to pay by standing order/direct debit, please email the parish and the forms will be sent to you.

### First Confessions

Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar at 7:30pm - St Mary's P.S., Dechomet

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish Eadha McMullan and Cara McEvoy

**Congratulations to** Coireall Brennan and Meave Clancy who were married recently

**Leitrim Cleaners** Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Mar – Bridie's Team

### Irish Bishops request for a Special Collection to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine

This collection will be taken up after the masses on the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Mar. If anyone wishes to put money in an envelope, simply mark it 'Ukraine' and place it in the normal basket or leave it through the letterbox in the parochial house. Any cheque donation should be made out to either 'The Parish of Dromara' or 'The Parish of Drumgooland'. The proceeds of this Special Collection will be directed to Caritas Internationalis, which is the helping hand of the Church on the ground in the Ukraine and the surrounding region.

### Prayer for the People of Ukraine

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world; that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Our Lady of Kyiv, pray for us!