

CENTRE STAGE

The idea of the kingdom of heaven (or the kingdom of God as it is also referred to) is very important to Jesus and takes centre stage in many of his parables. For example, in Matthew (13:44) Jesus tells us that "the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field;" and in Luke (13:18) Jesus says the kingdom of God "is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

IT GREW

The kingdom of God is not just a 'thing', not just some object that exists on the outside and that we only observe. Quite the opposite in fact! Jesus very clearly states that not only is the kingdom of God near (Lk 21:31), it "is within you" (Lk 17:21). You see, the kingdom of God comes from the inside out. It takes root in our hearts and moves out into the world around us; and into the lives and hearts of the people around us. That is part of what it means to pray "your kingdom come"; it means we are part of the answer to our own prayer.

PLAYING OUR PART

When it comes to praying the Our Father with complete conviction, the old adage 'be careful what you wish for' rings true. There is no point in praying for God's kingdom to come, if we aren't really prepared to play our part. When we pray "your kingdom come" we need to live like we mean it! In other words, you and I need to live out the kingdom values in our everyday living. It is only when we do this that God's kingdom can spread on earth.

'Be careful what you wish for'... when we pray 'your kingdom come' we don't add a caveat of our own. Praying for justice in the world means not ignoring that the cheap clothes we buy often come at the cost of exploiting workers for long hours and low wages; praying for peace in the world means we are committing to being people who speak words of kindness, and to forgiving those who we feel have wronged us. God's kingdom comprises so many beautiful values – love, mercy, compassion, healing and trust, to name just a few. By living according to these kingdom values, you and I become the change we want to see in the world, and assist in the bringing about of "your kingdom come". How awesome is that.

GOD IS IN CHARGE

Being a part of the fulfilling of "your kingdom come" is an amazing privilege; but it's vitally important to remember that it's not "my kingdom come" it's "your kingdom come". How easily we slip into praying that our plans are God's plans rather than the other way around. We need to desire to be so in tune with God's plans that his plans *become* our plans. "Your kingdom come" involves knowing that God is in charge – he is in charge of me and my life, and we are asking that God's will be done rather than my will. This is not as easy as it sounds, because it involves surrender, and surrender is rarely easy.

REJOICE

The three most powerful words we can say are words to rejoice in, because the coming of God's kingdom is already happening, and is ongoing. Let us pray "your kingdom come" in the words of the Táize chant: "The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom." Amen. ■



Today's readings

Acts 1:1-11
Eph 4:1-13
Mk 16:15-20

GOD'S WORD TODAY

The description of the mission to the Eleven draws on Matthew's Great Commissioning scene at the end of his gospel and on Luke's account of the mission of the seventy (two) in Luke 10 ("See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you"). The Lord's ascension and heavenly enthronement are mentioned in a short half-verse. The main emphasis falls on the proclamation of the Gospel and the signs that will accompany it. These signs, apart from speaking in new tongues, are not mentioned anywhere else in the gospels, but drinking poison without ill-effect became a common feature in lives of saints.

16 May 2021 – The Ascension of the Lord Year B

Psalter Week 3

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SERIES: JUST THREE WORDS

Season colour WHITE

In this series, **Clare Gilmore** explores the sheer depth contained in 'just three words'.



Three of the most powerful words any of us can say are "Your kingdom come", and Jesus instructs us to say this every time we pray. The Our Father is a prayer well-known and much-loved the world over, and is a prayer we pray so often, perhaps even daily; but I wonder when we pray it, do we really know what it is we are praying for?

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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The Ascension of the Lord – 16th May 2021

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 15th John Murphy
Katherine Love
Sat 22nd Nora McEvoy
Jim McAnulty (Backaderry) and
Deceased Family Relatives
Deceased Members of McElroy and
McAleenan Families

Gargory

Sun 16th Peter, Mary Gerry and Patsy Owens
Sun 23rd Denis and Roseann O'Prey
Annie Moorehead

Dromara

Sun 16th Patrick McEvoy (Ardtanagh)

Cemetery Service

There can be no large public gatherings at this time. A Service will be streamed on Sun 23rd May at 12 noon. The graves in all cemeteries will be blessed at a different time. Please do not gather in the cemeteries at the time of the Service.

Dromara Cemetery

Any person who is interested in taking on the care of the cemetery and church grounds should contact Fr Peter. This can be as an employee or a self-employed person.

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Maisie Brannigan

Collections Parish

Dromara	£255
Drumgooland	£1269

Gift Aid Letters

Thank you to all those who have returned their reply slips, this helps to keep our parish records updated. Gift Aid adds 25% to your generosity. There will be an opportunity soon for those who wish to sign a Gift Aid form, if you do not already have one.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

St Peter's & St Paul's Parish, Lurgan, is hosting a programme of events for Dromore Diocese to shadow some of the activities of the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Ceremonies will be broadcast from St Paul's Church Mon 17th to Thur 20th May at 7:00pm and from St Peter's Church on Fri 21st also 7:00pm. Links to each of the webcams are: Lurganparish.com/stpauls-webcam/ Lurganparish.com/stpeters-webcam/

Accord NI is recruiting for the Certificate in Counselling (Marriage and Relationship) training program (Sept '21). All details are on the Accord website: www.accord.ie/joining-accord/becoming-a-counselor

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

There will not be evening mass on Wed 19th and Fri 21st due to Confirmation

Confirmation will be celebrated this week

Tues 18th 6:00pm Leitrim - St Mary's Dechomet
Wed 19th 6:00pm Dromara - St Michael's Finnis
Fri 21st 6:00pm Gargory and 7:30pm Leitrim - St Matthew's Magheramayo

Each child will be allocated one seat for their family and sponsor.
The ceremonies will be streamed

Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and need a helping hand?
Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427