

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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6th Sunday in ordinary time
16th February 2025

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

Ash Wednesday 5th March

First Confession

Tues 11th Mar St Matthew's & St Mary's
Tues 25th Mar St Michael's

Confirmation

Wed 2nd Apr 6pm Dromara - all schools

Recently deceased



Dominic McElroy, Benraw, Leitrim
Theresa Kane (nee McCabe), Maghera

ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 15th Fr Frank Lyons
Rita Murray
John McKay
Annie & Patrick O'Prey
Maggie & Tony O'Hare & Deceased
Family Members
Seamus, Bridie & Patricia Savage
John A Cunningham
Margaret Blaney
Sat 22nd Patrick Malone

Dromara

Sun 16th Maire & Pat King, Gransha
Sun 23rd Mary McBride
Philip Lundy & Deceased Members
of Lundy, McGrillen & Cauley
Families

Gargory

Sun 23rd Theresa, Elizabeth & Patrick McCartan

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Stephen Sherry
07301246329/safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish	£1,196	£2,133
Priest	£981	£1,396

Figures include Jan standing orders

Thank you for your continued contributions

St Michael's Hall £280

Drumgooland Parish Council Meeting Mon 17th Feb 8pm

To discuss lease of Dechomet Hall
(apologies for the short notice)

Dechomet & Gargory Bells

The systems were damaged during the storm and power surges. They will be repaired when the parts come in.

Please join the '*Friends of St Michael's Finnis Parents Group*' on **Sun 16th Feb at 3pm** for a great afternoon of **Bingo** in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm.
£100 JACKPOT MUST GO.

Good fun, refreshments and a great raffle so please come along and show your support for the school.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Music Session with Ray Fri 28th Feb at 7:30 pm.

Come and play sing, recite, dance or just enjoy. Light supper provided.

Community Defibrillator

Information session and demonstration of the Community Defibrillator at Peter Morgan's Cottage

Tues 11th Mar at 7:30pm

Please come along and inform yourself about this vital piece of life-saving equipment. The team would like an indication of numbers. Please phone 07708017219 if you plan to attend.

Dromore Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 9th June

5 nights Full Board £850

Anyone who would like to be considered as a Pilgrim or Assisted Pilgrim please contact:

Ann Kelly (Secretary) 07788 195938, or
Kieran McEvoy (Chairperson) 07986 366162

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT

LK 6:17:20-26



In the Old Testament, Moses came down a mountain to announce God's word - the 10 commandments - to his people.

In today's Gospel Jesus also descends a mountain, to announce his word to the assembled crowd. He preaches the beatitudes and woes. (Luke's account of the beatitudes is different to Matthew's. Matthew has nine beatitudes. Luke has four beatitudes but also four woes.)

For anyone who is poor, hungry, who weeps, who is hated, Jesus has comforting words. He calls these people blessed. But for those who are rich, who are full, who laugh, and who are honoured, he has harsh words. Woe to you, he tells them.

Jesus' words can seem puzzling and severe. They turn our commonly accepted notion of what is good and bad upside down. He seems to be saying that it's a good thing to be poor, hungry, weeping and hurt; a bad thing to be rich, well fed, laughing, and to be spoken well of.

But Jesus isn't lauding poverty, hunger or hurt as things to be desired in themselves. They are not to be sought after. They should be avoided, if possible. Nor is Jesus condemning a social class. As he knows only too well, virtues and vices do not belong to any one particular group.

Jesus' beatitudes are addressed to his disciples, to those who are involved in building God's kingdom. And they are words of consolation and of promise. Jesus knows that things won't be easy for them. They will suffer for preaching the Gospel. They will face rejection, betrayal, and tears. But the promise is of better things to come. Jesus is assuring his disciples that while a life dedicated to God will bring difficulties and hardships, God will overcome them. Provided they remain faithful, their tears will turn to laughter. They will be blessed. ■

SAY

"Lord, give me the courage to speak your truth always. Amen."

LEARN

The poor and the abandoned are especially close to God's heart. Social solidarity is a keystone of the Christian life



DO

Reflect on today's Gospel. What values do you live by?

PRAY

There is so much inequality and injustice in our world. Pray for a more just world.

REFLECT

I never got to meet him. On the very day I arrived in the Philippines - 11 July 1985 - Rudy Romano was reported missing. Rudy was a Redemptorist priest based in the city of Cebu. He left the monastery on his motorbike that day and never returned. Ominously, his bike was discovered on a street downtown, and locals described how he had been surrounded by what looked like military vehicles. He had been bundled into a truck which sped away.

Immediately, the Redemptorists began a campaign to find Rudy. Search parties were sent out, demonstrations were held, posters were distributed, local and national media were contacted. An appeal was made to President Ferdinand Marcos to intervene, while pressure was piled on him from Ireland, the Vatican and around the world. But Rudy was never found. It became clear early on that he had been murdered by the military who had then dumped his body.

Rudy was martyred because of his work for justice. He was an outspoken critic of the repressive Marcos regime, so they decided

to silence him. Rudy heard the cry of the poor, he stood alongside those without a voice, and the authorities couldn't tolerate it. He was a nuisance, so they had to shut him up. In speaking out on behalf of the poor, Rudy Romano was living the beatitudes.

The Sermon on the Mount is the first great sermon in Matthew's account of the life of Jesus. Luke doesn't have a 'Sermon on the Mount.' Instead, he has what is called 'The Sermon on the Plain.' Though shorter than Matthew's version, it contains much of the same material.

But a major difference between them is that Luke adds a series of 'woe-sayings.' 'Woe to you (or alas for you) who are rich... who have your fill... who laugh now...'. In using these woe sayings, Luke is going back to the Old Testament prophets, who often condemned the people to whom they preached by using woe sayings. Just as the beatitude sayings are using a different standard to judge people as fortunate, the woe sayings use a different standard to measure misfortune. One might expect the rich, those with enough to eat, those the world considers

fortunate, to be the happy ones. But that's not how Luke sees it.

In drawing this sharp contrast, Luke is pointing to Mary's Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55). The mother of Jesus praises God for overturning the social and political order of the world - toppling the thrones of the powerful and lifting up those at the bottom of the heap, filling the hungry with good things, sending the rich away empty.

For Luke, reversing the oppressive order of the world is part of the Messiah's work, part of the work of the Gospel.

Despite the progress of recent decades, much remains to be done to create a just world. Many millions remain hungry, the poor still weep bitterly, those who fight for justice are opposed and imprisoned. Is it all a pipe dream? Or is it a challenge to rethink the values we live by? We may not have to risk our lives, as Rudy Romano did, for the Gospel. But we must be a voice of justice and truth in our time and place, speaking always with courage. ■