

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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The Presentation of the Lord

2nd February 2025

The sick and housebound will be attended this week.

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

Recently deceased



*Kate Murphy (nee Bannon), Dundalk,
formerly Riverside, Leitrim*
Joe Doyle, Drumaroad, formerly Dromara

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 1st Mickey Turley
Leitrim
Sat 1st **Maurice McElroy MM**
Margaret & Frank McElroy
Wed 5th Fr Jim Mooney
Sat 8th Patsy McGlue & Paul McEleney

Dromara

Sun 2nd **Liz McKay MM**
Daniel, Liam & Mary Marmion
& Deceased Family Members
Dan & Mae Flynn
Paddy & Eileen Dillon
Sun 9th Peter McEvoy & Martin Drake

Saint Vincent DePaul Leitrim

Many, many thanks for all your generous donations in our Christmas appeal. Your support is greatly appreciated and has helped families in need in our community.

Dromara Counters Rota

Feb - Seamus & Margaret McEvoy

Gargory Altar Rota Feb - Rita & Angela

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

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

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £374 £647

Thank you for your continued contributions

Thank You for your patience and support after the recent storm. Thankfully, there was no major damage caused to the churches, halls or parochial house. I really appreciate the reach out in case there was anything I needed. Thanks to all who helped to tidy up and to all those who reached out to neighbours at this challenging time.

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Erin Patricia Quinn

Knock Pilgrimage for Adults 8th & 9th Feb
Staying at St Mary's beside Shrine, B&B and Saturday evening meal included. Transport from Newry, Banbridge & Lurgan, £145, includes morning Tea/Coffee and scones on route.

To secure your place email

youthdirector@dromorediocese.org

or phone 028 3083 3898

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Mon 10th Feb at 8pm

The Society will host an online lecture by Geoff Cobb entitled "*The History of St Patrick's Day parades in New York*".

The ZOOM room will open at 7:45pm.

The talk will start at 8pm sharp. A link to the talk can be obtained by e-mailing the

Hon Secretary goss.jjm@gmail.com

and will be forwarded on Mon 10th Feb

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

Southern Area Hospice Memory Tree

*Remember your loved ones with a
personalised Engraved Leaf*

The Memory Tree is located in the SAH Memory Garden and provides a beautiful and meaningful way to remember a loved one, whilst also helping the Hospice to continue delivering specialist palliative care to patients and support to their families. Call Katie or Aislin on 028 3026 7711 for further information or visit

southernareahospiceservices.org/memory-tree

WISE OLD HEADS

LK 2:22-40



In the summer of 2019, a then 93-year-old appeared on the main stage at Glastonbury, the biggest music event of the year in Britain.

It was the festival's last day, and his appearance was unexpected. To make it onto Glastonbury's main stage is a singular achievement. Many artists spend years hoping to headline there. Most never make it. So the



fact that a 93-year-old made it was all the more surprising, especially as he wasn't even in the music industry. The 93-year-old was Sir David Attenborough.

A huge roar greeted the environmentalist and television presenter as he emerged on stage. He was there to urge people to protect our planet. And he wanted to thank the organisers for making the festival plastic-free. His speech drew rapturous applause from the young audience.

David Attenborough was teaching another valuable lesson, because we live in a world that worships youth and beauty, and tends to tune out the reality of old age. Our culture tells us that to be a success, to be worth it, you must be young, attractive. Look at celebrity magazines or the world of modelling, look at reality TV. Girls feel the pressure especially, but boys feel it also.

A study published in the UK some time ago showed a worrying rise in the number of teenagers admitted to hospital to be treated for an eating disorder. And it blames celebrity

culture and social media for contributing to this rise.

"With the rise of social media and the celebrity culture, people are being bombarded by these images of what seems to be the ideal body," an expert said.

In this youth and beauty obsessed world, more and more people are using plastic surgery, botox and all sorts of fads and diets to try to look young.

In today's Gospel, we meet two old people who are not into beauty regimes or diets. Simeon and Anna are deeply religious people who have spent years in the Temple, devoting their lives to God.

Along comes a young couple, Mary and Joseph, with their new-born baby. They have brought Jesus to the Temple to consecrate him to God, as the law requires.

The Temple is full of people, including priests and scribes. These are the educated ones, the ones who know their theology and scripture, but they don't recognise who this child is. Instead, it's these two uneducated seniors, Simeon and Anna, who have the wisdom to recognise the Lord.

The others in the Temple probably had dismissed them as a pair of pious old fogeys, two geriatrics who keep getting in the way, but Simeon and Anna are the tuned-in, clued-in, awake ones, able to decipher what is happening. This unlikely duo are the agents God uses. ■

DO

Visit an elderly family member or relative this week. Take time to listen to them. Value their wisdom and insight.

PRAY

Pray that, like Simeon and Anna, you will recognise Christ as your Lord and proclaim him with joy.

SAY

"Lord, help me to see and appreciate the beauty in everyone, irrespective of age or circumstance. Amen."

LEARN

Founded in 1997, this is the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Pope John Paul attached it to Candlemas Day because consecrated men and women are to be a light in the world, imitating Jesus, the Light of the World.

REFLECT

Today's Gospel offers valuable lessons about ourselves and about old age.

First, to appreciate who we are, the way we are. Our culture is so obsessed with looks and image that it overlooks what's really important, which is what's inside – the kind of people we are and the values we hold. We can't measure these by looking in the mirror or at pictures on Instagram, but these are what matter most of all. It's not how I look, but who I am; not whether I can model for a top ad agency but whether I am a model person; not whether I'm a size 8 or can pump more iron than anyone else in the gym, but how big my heart is.

The first lesson is to appreciate who we are, the way we are, with all our physical imperfections. None of us is perfect. We grow older and we grow old. It's part of the beauty of life. What matters is being our best selves, making the best use of the gifts God has given us.

The second lesson is to not obsess about the past. Anna and Simeon are unusual: you would expect these old people to dwell on the past, on what happened in their young days, their memories and losses. Instead, their focus is on what is to come. Something yet to happen dominates their life, and they are alive with hope and expectation, hungering for God's presence, longing for the day when they will see for themselves the glory of God. In our 21st century world, dominated by so much despair and fear, we need something of that hope and expectation which filled Simeon and Anna.

The third lesson is to appreciate older people – for they have so much to teach us. Their long years in the Temple helped Anna and Simeon to tune into God. It's the wisdom and insight of old age. It's what older people have in abundance. It's what we can too easily ignore.

Think of what your older family members give you, and treasure it. Value them while you can, and learn from them, as Mary and Joseph learned from Anna and Simeon.

As David Attenborough reminds us, we can learn so much from the older generation, irrespective of whether or not they make it onto the main stage at Glastonbury. ■