

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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13th Sunday in ordinary time

30th June 2024

Weekend Masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet & 7:30pm Leitrim

Sun 9:00am Gargory & 11:00am Dromara

**There will not be any weekday masses
until I return from holidays**

*(the next weekday mass will be on Mon 22nd Jul
in Dechomet at 7:30pm)*

Holidays

I will be on holiday 29th Jun to 20th July this year

If you need a priest urgently for
a sick call or a death, please try

Fr Brian Brown 074 9673 1619

Booking of Anniversaries

Over the next few weeks Anniversaries can be
booked by email: leaving a message and contact
number on the answering machine or by leaving
a note through the parochial house letter box.

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sun 29th James O'Hare

Leitrim

Sat 29th Sarah Lennon
Michael McElroy
PF & Mary Rose McCartan
Kathleen O'Hare

Sat 6th Margaret, Oliver & Gary Donnelly
Kathleen Bannon

Dromara

Sun 30th Hugh McCoubry (*Derry*)
Elizabeth & Joseph Gordon (*Drumkerragh*)
Margaret Marmion

Sun 7th Kevin Doyle
Bernard Rice (*Dree*)

Gargory Altar Rota

July - Phil

Leitrim Cleaners

July - Geraldine, Deirdre & Siobhan

Diocesan Safeguarding:

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329

Email: safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

SVP contact numbers:

Dromara 077 3883 8191

Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£898	£980

Thank you for continuing to support your parish.

Altar Servers

During the summer if you are at mass please
come into the sacristy and offer help even
if it is not your weekend to serve.

Viatores Christi Mission Appeal

£1,166 has been received.

Anyone who wishes to donate, please
put your envelope on the collection basket
over the next few weeks.

Publishing the Parish Accounts

These were submitted to the Diocese but
have yet to be signed off. They will be
published at the end of the summer.

Gift Aid

Thanks to all who signed Gift Aid forms
and have supported the parishes financially.

The claims for 2023/24
have been submitted:

Dromara £7,679.61

Drumgooland £16,619.87

Once more, thanks to all who support
the parishes and myself with such
financial generosity.

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish

Cara Grace Shahmohammadi

Ivy Vera McAlerney

Dion Christopher Jordan Hempton

Wee James' Tractor Run

Sun 7th Jul

The Mill,
50 Leitrim Road,
BT31 9BD

Registration begins 12:30pm

Table Quiz

Fri 26th July

Doyle's Bar, Dechomet at 8.30pm

Proceeds in aid of the
Lourdes Fund.

Sunday Message

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 30 June 2024 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



LORD OF LIFE

MARK 5:21-43

Jesus has just crossed the Sea of Galilee and is about to teach the people gathered there when a synagogue official named Jairus begs him to come and heal his sick daughter.

It's an unusual request from a member of the religious establishment which has shown itself resistant to Jesus and his message. But Jairus is also a parent and he is desperate. Jesus agrees to heal the child and heads for Jairus' house followed by a crowd. While he is on his way, he heals a woman with a haemorrhage.

Suddenly, the situation becomes tragic. Messengers arrive. The little girl is dead. There is no point in bothering Jesus any further. But Jesus invites Jairus to stay on the journey of faith. He tells him: "Do not be afraid; only have faith."

When Jesus gets to the house, the only disciples he allows enter are Peter, James and John. They seem to be part of his inner circle. They will see his glory at the transfiguration and his anguish in Gethsemane. There is also a large crowd of friends and relatives gathered in shock and mourning, who laugh derisively when Jesus states that the girl is not dead.

So Jesus orders them out, for there is no place for unbelief in what he is about to do. He invites the little girl's parents to join him, together with the three disciples. Taking the child by the hand, he says in Aramaic (his native tongue), "Talitha, kumi!" which translates as "Little girl, arise!" It is one of the few places where Jesus' words spoken in his own tongue have been preserved. It is at this stage we are told that the child is 12 years old. She has had life for as long as the other woman has had haemorrhages. Like the older woman whom Jesus has healed, the little girl has been given life and a future by Jesus. ■



PRAY

Pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Ask the Lord to comfort them.

DO

Consider those you have loved and lost. Entrust them to God's tender care.

LEARN

With faith in God anything is possible

Jesus is our life and our hope

SAY

"Lord, I thank you for the gift of faith. Help me to keep on believing and trusting in you. Amen."

REFLECT

Recently, I watched a music video that made me weep. I watched it several times, and each time the tears flowed. I had seen it when it first came out 20 years ago but its impact this time was far greater, its punch much more personal.

The song is called *Hurt* (originally released by Nine Inch Nails) and this cover version was performed by Johnny Cash, the last single he ever released. It's his end of life song, his parting glass. He looks back on his illustrious career - and yet and yet...

The song is full of lamentation, regret, pain. You can hear it in his voice, see it in his face and in his trembling hand, as images flash across the screen of his younger days and extraordinary life that had made him world famous. The combination of the storytelling, images and voice are so powerful, so heartbreaking, that in the numerous reaction videos to the song that are on YouTube - videos where people listen to a song and give their reactions to it - invariably grown men and women weep, like I did. People

of every age, background and race are overcome, because his pain is so raw they can feel it.

As we see the numerous awards he received and scenes from his career, he sings, "And you can have it all, my empire of dirt." He is saying that, at the end of the day, what good are all his awards, his golden discs, his achievements? They are just an empire of dirt.

And there is one line that really hits home. He sings, "Everyone I know goes away in the end." And we see a photo of his deceased mother on the wall, and his terminally ill wife June looking lovingly at him, and you know he is remembering all those he has lost and will lose. "Everyone I know goes away in the end." What good is his empire of dirt compared to love and loss?

June died just three months after he released this single, and Johnny himself died just four months after that.

The line "Everyone I know goes away in the end" hit me hard. I thought of the best holiday I ever had, on Cape Clear island in 2005, with my parents and two beloved aunts, the five of us together for two weeks, with no car and no travelling around, simply enjoying one another's company - and now they are all gone and I'm the only one left.

Everyone I know goes away in the end; the experience of grief and loss that Johnny Cash sings so poignantly about is something we all experience, the more so as we grow older. That's why the song affected me much more now than when I first heard it in 2003. I have experienced more of life and loss.

We all do as we age. Which is why our Christian faith is so comforting. We know that when we die, our death is not an exit to oblivion but rather the threshold to a new, transformed, glorified life with Christ in God forever. Just as the Lord restored Jairus' daughter to her parents, he will give us new life too. Our loved ones die, but we know we will see them again. ■