

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**26<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

## 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

*Hugh O'Hare, Belfast, formerly Dromara*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### DECHOMET

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup>** Mary Ellen O'Hare

Brian Doyle

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>** Margaret Gilmore

Olivia Fitzpatrick

### LEITRIM

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup>** Charlie, Brigid, Jim, Jerome & Phelim Shields

Gerard McElroy

**Wed 29<sup>th</sup>** Kevin Burns MM

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>** Fr Lionel Murray

### DROMARA

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup>** Michael McKey (*Levallyreagh*)

Margaret & Eddie McCann (*Munninabane*)

### GARGORY

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>** Jim King

## Leitrim Community Playgroup

*Christmas Craft Fair Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 10am-1pm.*

Everyone is welcome to our craft fair, there will be a variety of crafts, something to eat, raffle and fantastic prizes to be won!

*We Welcome into Drumgooland Parish  
Blaithín Rose Matthews*

*Congratulations to Eamonn McGreevy and  
Rebecca Moore who were married recently*

**St Vincent de Paul, Finnis, Dromara  
Christmas Appeal 2023**

An Amazon Wish List had been setup:  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1RET2PL08GHHT?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1RET2PL08GHHT?ref=wl_share)  
to purchase a Christmas present for a local child. If you have any difficulties or if you would prefer to make a donation towards heating oil/food hampers please contact Mary on 07738838191. Many thanks for your continued support - St Vincent de Paul Finnis, Dromara.

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£259	£850

*Thank you for your contributions.*

Everyone is welcome to the **Five Consecutive First Saturday Devotions** which will continue on **Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec** in Dechomet Chapel. Rosary (& confessions) at 5:30pm, Mass at 6pm, followed by a 15-min meditation on the Joyful Mysteries.

Please join the '*Friends of St Michael's Parents Group*' on **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** for a great afternoon of *Christmas Bingo* in the Parish Hall. Doors open 2:30pm, Bingo 3pm. **£100 JACKPOT must go.**

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

## Dromara Parish Council

Meeting **Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec** 8pm St Michael's Hall

**Archbishop Eamon Martin** has written a letter to the people of the Diocese of Dromore outlining how the Diocese meets its financial and other responsibilities for safeguarding children, and for responding to those who have been abused in the past. The letter has been published on the Diocesan website and hard copies will be available at the back of the Church. Archbishop Eamon encourages all to read the letter carefully, and asks for your support in ensuring that together we can continue to keep children and vulnerable people safe in all our Church activities now and in the future.

**Gargory Altar Rota** Dec Rita & Clare  
**Leitrim Cleaners** Dec Patricia, Tina, Nadine, Anne

**Accord NI** is seeking applications for a 2- year part-time Certificate in Counselling (*Couple & Relationship*) beginning Apr 24. A non-refundable deposit of £200 will secure a place. **Closing date 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

Further information:  
Brenda 028 90 233002 or [info@accordni.co](mailto:info@accordni.co).

**Peter Morgan's Cottage Christmas Music Night**  
**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 7:30-11pm.** Music, Song & Stories.  
All welcome. Light supper served. Come along and enjoy the entertainment.

**SVP** Drom 077 3883 8191 / Drum 078 2541 9067

**Safeguarding Contact** Pat Carville 077 8991 7741

# Sunday Message

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

THE WORD

Year A • 26 November 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



## SERVANT KING

MT 25:31-46

If you enjoy fantastic TV dramas like *The Crown*, you will have an insight into the rarefied life of modern royalty.

Monarchy has always fascinated people. It continues to fascinate us. Think of the response worldwide to the death of Queen Elizabeth II last year, or the acres of newsprint about Meghan and Prince Harry. But today's feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe offers an alternative version of royalty, the kind embraced by Jesus.

Today's feast marks the end of the Church's liturgical year. It is always celebrated on the last Sunday before Advent. Unlike today, in times past monarchs were people of absolute power who commanded respect, obedience and fear. They fought battles and lorded it over their subjects. But Jesus' kingship is of an entirely different sort.

The Gospel story of the last judgement gives us a clear insight into Jesus's idea of kingship. For him kingship is not about power and authority but about service. It is not about big palaces, and expensive clothes and fine dining, but being on the margins with those who have little or nothing. On the last day, in our hour of judgement, we will be judged on one thing only – whether and to what extent our attitude to others led us to reach out to them in love and mercy.

Christ the servant king is our model, our Lord, the one we are called to imitate. ■

### PRAY

Pray for our country, that its care for the weakest and most vulnerable members of society will be a reflection of the Kingdom of God.

### DO

Reach out this week to someone in need or distress. Look for the person of Christ in everyone you meet.

### LEARN

Today's feast, created by Pope Pius XI, was first celebrated in 1928. Recall what the world was like back then. Mussolini's fascists were in power in Italy. A fanatic called Hitler was stirring up trouble in Germany. Stalin was gaining ascendancy in the Soviet Union; extremist movements offering messiah-type leaders were on the rise.

Pius XI was saying to the world that despite dictatorships and political unrest and the rise of ideologies of the left and right, Jesus Christ is still King of the Universe. There is only one lord, one ruler, one model, one monarch – Jesus of Nazareth, a king who washed people's feet and died on a cross. This is the king to whom we owe allegiance.

### SAY

**"Lord, help me to recognise you as my king and saviour, who shows me the way to true happiness."**

## REFLECT

**T**he feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe challenges us both as a Church and as individual Christians.

First, it's a reminder that power and authority in the Church must always be about service; that those who exercise power and authority must model themselves on Jesus, the servant king, and not on any earthly model of authority. The Church is not a democracy but it is unfortunate that it retains a structure of authority and of dress and rank and titles – even of bishops' houses called palaces – that are based on a medieval model of government.

The Church is not following the example of Christ King of the Universe if it is not, in the words of Pope Francis, a poor Church of the poor that offers humble service.

Second, today's feast reminds us that as Christians, our lives must be about service and love. Service and love even of people we don't know personally.

At the last judgement, on what basis will God separate the saved from the lost? Not on how often I went to Mass or how much I put into the collection plate. Not even on whether I served the church in an official capacity, ordained or non-ordained. But rather on something altogether more

demanding and difficult: I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome...

Just as Jesus, our king, gave himself, shared himself and broke himself for others out of love, so also must we give ourselves, share ourselves and break ourselves for others out of love. How good we are at doing that will determine whether or not we are worthy of a place in the everlasting kingdom of justice, peace and love.

Imitate the example of our servant king, and salvation will be ours. ■