

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

The Baptism of the Lord

7th January 20234

Feast of Epiphany (6th Jan)

Fri 5th 7:30pm Dromara

Sat 6th 10am Gargory

Weekend Masses

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

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

There will be no weekday mass this week (Mon to Fri)

I will be away on holiday

Sat 6th Jan (afternoon) until Sat 13th Jan.

If there is an **emergency sick call or death**, please try

Fr Brian Brown at 028 97 562410 / 074 9673 1619

The **sick and housebound** will be
attended on 15th & 16th Jan

Recently Deceased



Annie Taylor, Mossvale Tce, Dromara

James Edward McKenny, Dublin,

(formerly Munninabane)

ANNIVERSARIES

DECHOMET

Sat 6th Maggie Doyle

Sat 13th John Fitzpatrick

LEITRIM

Sat 6th Bridie Madine

Edward & Rosaleen Ward

Maud McLoughlin

Sat 13th Deceased Members of
McMullan Family (*Legananny*)

Pat & Aidan McAnulty

GARGORY

Sun 7th Peter & Una Gribben

DROMARA

Sun 7th Jimmy & Winnie McEvoy

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Lourdes
6th to 11th Aug 18 to 30 year olds.

A great opportunity to the faith, spirit
and fun of a Lourdes Pilgrimage, volunteer
to help in Lourdes and grow in faith with
other like-minded young people.

For more information email your name
and mobile number to Frances at

youthdirector@dromorediocese.org

Leitrim Cleaners - Jan: Anne; Joanne & Jeanette

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish 17th Dec £365 £1,002

Priest 17th Dec £40 £238

Parish 24th Dec £1,047 £2,476

Priest Xmas £ 1,980 £3,793

Parish 31st Dec £251 £835

Priest 31st Dec £40 £272

*Thank you to all who gave so generously to the parishes
and clergy collections over Christmas*

St Michael's Hall donations

Festive Coffee Morning £157.70;

Bowling Club £350; Whist £500; GAA £150

Thanks to all who contribute to
the running costs of the Hall

Why not start 2024 with the **Five Consecutive
First Saturday Devotions** which will take place
every first Saturday of the month starting Sat 6th
Jan directly after 6pm Mass in Dechomet Chapel?

Rosary and 15 minute meditation along with
receiving Holy Communion and Confessions
within 20 days are offered in reparation to
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart for peace in
the world, as requested in Fatima.

Do This in Memory

The next part of the First Communion
preparation programme will be on **13th / 14th Jan**
The children are asked to bring a small bottle
of water, it will be blessed during mass.

BINGO

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Finnis
Parents Group' on **Sun 14th Jan** at 3pm for
a great afternoon of Bingo in the Parish Hall.
Doors open at 2:30pm. Good fun, refreshments
and a raffle, so please come along and show
your support for the school.

*We welcome into Dromara Parish
Áine Rose Dunniece
and into Drumgooland Parish
Alannah Rose O'Hare*

Found a Blue Badge parking permit
in the grounds of St Michael's, Dromara

SVP Drom 077 3883 8191 / Drum 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact Pat Carville 077 8991 7741

Sunday Message

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - FEAST

THE WORD

Year B • 7 January 2024 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



Few of us get to choose our name. It's a gift or burden bequeathed to us by our parents.

Even if we're not enamoured of it, most of us accept the name we have been given. It's who we are, a core part of our identity. People know us and call us by our name. In almost every country parents are required to register a child's birth and record the child's name. In this way, the child's name becomes part of the public record. The name on the birth certificate becomes a ticket or passport to some of the essential services society offers its members.

Your name represents who you are - to your family, your friends, your children, your colleagues in the office or the receptionist at the hotel. Your name establishes the beginning of a reputation, and the whole of that reputation is recalled by the thought or speaking of your name. To be called by name is something uniquely personal.

Names have an aspect of the sacred about them. The ancient people of Israel considered God's name so hallowed they dared not speak or even write it. In the Bible, God chose new names for favoured ones. Abram became Abraham, Simon became Peter, Saul became Paul. The new name signalled a new identity, a new calling. A rebirth.

It happened in religious life, too. Upon taking the habit, a novice monk or nun would be given a new name, typically of a saint, a name they would henceforth be called by, a name signalling a new life, a new birth. We all remember nuns called Peter or Alphonsus or Michael.

While some names are assigned in an almost desultory manner, influenced by the current major celebrity, most parents approach the task seriously. They draw up lists; they debate, they consider, they consult. There are multiple websites that offer advice on baby names, while newspapers like to publish a list of the most popular baby names of the previous year. The tradition in Ireland had been to name a child after a parent, grandparent or saint. The country was crammed with Pats, Michaels, Bridgets and Marys. Today a child is more likely to be named after a personality or sports star. People follow trends and it's no different when it comes to assigning monikers.

Not all are content to live with their birth names. An unfortunate moniker may have led to embarrassment or bullying in school or didn't seem to fit the individual's personality, and so some use their middle name or a pet name, or even change their name by deed poll. Names are a serious business, something we should never take lightly. ■

REFLECT

In the sacrament of baptism, the candidate is given a name. The celebrant turns to the parents or sponsors and solemnly asks: "What name do you give your child?" But this is not just a naming ceremony. It is far more important than that. Through baptism, the newly baptised becomes part of a new, larger family, the family of Church. Baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the child becomes a son

or daughter of God the Father, a co-heir of heaven through Christ the Son, and a sharer in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God calls her to a new life, a life of holiness. She is born again, a new person. Baptism represents a deliberate act of identification with the person of Jesus Christ and his Church.

Think of what happened when you were presented for baptism. You were called by

DO

Take some time to think about your baptism and what it means for you today

Think of ways in which you can play a more active role in your parish

PRAY

Think of your local parish church; think of all the people who have been baptised there; think of all the members of your own family who have been baptised. Pray for them and for all the baptised throughout the world.

SAY

"Lord, I thank you for the blessings of baptism. Help me to keep my baptismal promises to the best of my ability."

LEARN

Through baptism, we become one family, brothers and sisters of Christ and of one another.

Our baptism impels us to play a full and active part in the life of the Church.

name. You were baptised in the name of the Lord. The Lord claimed ownership of you. You are marked as a Christian. That is your identity. You are not just a citizen of the state, not just someone who bears or carries on the family name, but a member of the body of Christ, of the community of Church. That is also the name by which we must identify ourselves. ■