

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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16th Sunday in ordinary time

21st July 2024

Weekend Masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet & 7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargoy & 11:00am Dromara

Weekday Masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim & 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7th 7:30pm Dromara

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 20th Margaret & Gerard Quail

Leitrim

Sat 20th Brian Donnelly
Wed 24th Hugh & Mary Murray & Deceased
Family Members

Dromara

Fri 26th Pat's John O'Hare (*Dree*)

Pope Francis @ Pontifex



*The Gospel is proclaimed together,
as a community. To do so, we must
be modest in the use of things,
sharing resources and gifts, so that
we may be free and everyone may
have what they need to live with
dignity and contribute to the mission.*

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	£200	£713

Thank you for continuing to support your parish.

Feast of St Anne Fri 26th July

Mass in Mayobridge Convent grounds
Fri 26th July at 7.30pm (*weather permitting*)
otherwise in St Patrick's Church.
St Anne's Oil will be available on the day.

Nine Day Novena to St Anne
starts **Wed 17th July**

St Anne's Shrine Open 8am to 10pm daily.

Table Quiz

Fri 26th July

Doyle's Bar, Dechomet at 8.30pm

Proceeds in aid of the
Lourdes Fund.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Our annual *Cairn Sunday* walk takes
place on **Sunday 5th August**.

Walk from Peter Morgan's Cottage /
Dree Hill Rd / Slieve Croob.

Return by Pass Loanan.

7 miles/11k approx. 2-2 ½ hrs.

Meet at the Cottage from 9am.

Walk starts promptly at 9 30 am.

Everyone welcome.

Refreshments at the cottage on return.

Donations welcome.

Queries 077 0801 7219

We hope to host a *Craft Morning*
at the Cottage in October.

It's an opportunity to showcase
local craftspeople and produce.

If you would like to book a table
to showcase your products and

promote your business

please contact Michelle on

079 2295 2011.

Sunday Message

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 21 July 2024 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

GUT FEELING

MARK 6:30-34



Today's Gospel describes the return of the Twelve Jesus had sent out on mission.

The word "apostle" comes from the Greek verb *apostellō*, which means "to send." They've been sent by Jesus and now are reporting back. But they don't seem to fully understand what has happened. Notice that they tell Jesus about "all that they had done and taught." They have forgotten that they had gone on mission equipped with Jesus' authority, not their own. They haven't understood what it means to be sent by Jesus on a mission. Acting on the basis of their own authority, they haven't operated as followers. Still, they are full of enthusiasm.

Jesus' response to this popular enthusiasm is to invite them away to a deserted place. Jesus is always cautious about popular demonstrations of enthusiasm for his message, because they have the capacity to take his mission in the wrong direction. Time apart in a deserted place will help the apostles to understand more fully the mission they now share with Jesus.

So they set out across the Sea of Galilee by boat. But the plan fails spectacularly. Seeing the boat, people race around the lake to meet Jesus and his friends when they reach land. Mark says the people came "from all the towns" around the lake. This is his way of letting us know just how popular Jesus has become.

Mark says that Jesus "had compassion on them." In Greek the text reads that "he was moved with compassion for them in his inward parts." In the Hebrew way of associating feelings to parts of the body, compassion was always associated with the womb. In the case of men, it was the intestine. In other words, when Jesus sees the people, he has such compassion for them that he feels it in the pit of his stomach. It's a really strong statement of the depth of feeling Jesus has for the people.

His reason for such a strong feeling is that the people "were like sheep without a shepherd." This phrase is used in the Old Testament to describe the people of Israel whenever they suffered from failed or negligent leadership. But Jesus will not fail or neglect God's people. He will be the true shepherd. ■

DO

Think about your attitude to the person in need, the stranger, the refugee. Would you say that you are compassionate?

LEARN

Compassion was at the heart of Jesus' ministry. It is key to Gospel living

Jesus is our true Shepherd

PRAY

The biblical phrase "like sheep without a shepherd" describes those suffering from ineffective or defective leadership. Pray for those in authority in our Church, that they will be the kind of leaders we need.

SAY

"Lord, help me to be compassionate as you are compassionate. Amen."

REFLECT

In 1980, El Salvador was in the middle of such a brutal civil war that the American Peace Corps withdrew their volunteers from the country. They were afraid Government death squads would target them. On the day they left, Jean Donovan, an American lay missionary who chose to stay behind, wrote a letter to a friend:

"The Peace Corps left today and my heart sank low. The danger is extreme and they were right to leave... Now I must assess my own position because I am not up for suicide. Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor, bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them?"

In the early 1970s, Jean spent time in University College Cork as an exchange student, where she met a priest called Michael Crowley. He stirred Jean's

conscience, urging her and other students to give not just money to the poor but also their time and solidarity.

Back home in the States, Jean qualified as an accountant and got engaged. At that time the news was full of stories about the war in El Salvador. Thousands of Salvadorans who opposed the government were being murdered or disappeared. Jean felt compelled to go there as a missionary, and so she trained with the Maryknoll Sisters.

In 1979, she was sent to the town of La Libertad. Alongside Sr Dorothy Kazel, she provided food, medical treatment and shelter to victims of the war. It was dangerous work, made more dangerous after the assassination of San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Romero in March 1980.

In December 1980, Jean and Sr Dorothy drove to the airport to pick up two Maryknoll sisters, Maura Clarke and Ita Ford. As they

returned home on an isolated road, members of the El Salvador military stopped their car. They forced the four women into the jungle, and brutally assaulted and murdered them.

Jean Donovan was only 27 years old when she died. She knew going to El Salvador was dangerous; that staying there was even more dangerous. So why did she do it? Why did she stay when so many others fled? Compassion. She wouldn't - she couldn't - abandon those suffering children.

In today's Gospel, Jesus has compassion on the crowd. This word is used throughout the Gospels to describe Jesus' response to those in need: he had compassion. He had compassion on the sick, the blind, the lepers, the hungry, those mourning loved ones, anyone who was in trouble or in need. And he always acted: to heal, sustain, encourage, nourish, make whole again. Compassion was always Jesus' first response. It must be our first response also. ■