

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

Email: [dromaradrumgooland@dmorediocese.org](mailto:dromaradrumgooland@dmorediocese.org) Web: [www.dromaradrumgooland.org](http://www.dromaradrumgooland.org)

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 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

**Tue** 10:00am Dromara

**Wed** 7:30pm Leitrim

**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

## ANNIVERSARIES



2024 Anniversary Book is now open

### LEITRIM

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>** Pat McClean  
Patsy Madine  
John McAlarney  
Bilbo Middleton

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup>** **Cissie Kelly (MM)**  
Teresa & Stanley Wright & Deceased  
Members of O'Hare Family (*Backaderry*)  
Patricia Quail  
Barney & Joey McAnulty

### GARGORY

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** **Mark McEvoy (MM)**

### DROMARA

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** Wesley Hunter  
Hugh Pat O'Hare  
Francis McEvoy (*Ardtanagh*)

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup>** **Pete Lundy (MM)** (*New Jersey*)  
Harry McKay

### *Masses for Recently Deceased*

*Dechomet Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Nov*

*Leitrim Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Nov*

*Dromara Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Nov*

### **Gargory Altar Rota**

Oct - Marion

### **GIVE BLOOD Save Lives**

#### **NI Blood Transfusion Service**

*Blood donation sessions*

**Thur 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 12:30pm-4pm & 5pm-7:30pm**

**Ballynahinch Baptist Church**

To book an appointment:

Online: [www.nibts.org](http://www.nibts.org)

Call: 08085 534 653

**SVP:** Dromara 07738838191/Drumgooland 07825419067

**Safeguarding Contact:** P Carville 07789917741

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £265 £745

Pope £198 £431

*Thank you for your contributions.*

**Volunteers Needed!** Every church would benefit from more volunteers, there are many roles. Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Collector, Counter, Choir, Cleaning the Chapel, Decoration of the Altar. Please consider stepping forward, a volunteer is better than a conscript. Thanks to those who have volunteered, ask a friend, sometimes that helps you step forward as well.

**The Well** have offered another Drop-In session, Fr Peter has kindly offered the use of the Parochial House to host this session.

*Please note only members of Well will be in attendance.*

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a chat with the **Well Team** please drop into the Parochial House on **Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Sept between 7pm and 9pm**

*The Well is a community wellness hub, which offers a range of services to support mental health and emotional wellbeing. Their aim is to provide the right support, to the right person, at the right time.*

T: (028) 4176 7272

E: [hi@thewellhub.net](mailto:hi@thewellhub.net)

W: [www.thewellhub.net](http://www.thewellhub.net)

### **Do This In Memory**

The First Communion preparation programme will begin on **30<sup>th</sup> Sept /1<sup>st</sup> Oct.**

### **Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne**

Sept is a time for new beginnings and many of us are thinking about deepening our relationship with Christ. Drumalis offer courses, both In-House & on Zoom, to assist in that journey:

- **Pathways in Adult Faith Development**
- **Certificate in Christian Thought**
- **Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living** (*Online Only*)
- **Rooted in Love** (*Online Only*)

Further details can be found by contacting Drumalis.

Tel. 028 28272196/28276455

or by emailing

[drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com).

# Sunday Message

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 24 September 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



## OUR JUST GOD MT 20:1-16

The parable of the Good Employer irritates some people. It seems unfair, even unjust, that the labourers who had worked since dawn were paid the same amount as those who had worked for only a few hours or less. We may identify with those workers who grumble about its unfairness. They had toiled in the boiling sun all day while the others did nothing.

But the employer isn't unfair. He has cheated nobody. He has paid them what they were entitled to and what they agreed - a just wage. Instead, the employer is compassionate. He pays the latecomers a full day's wages because he takes pity on them. He doesn't want them to go hungry. He doesn't want their loved ones to suffer. He wants them to be able to feed their families tomorrow. He knows he's unlikely to become a billionaire with a super yacht if he pays people a day's wages for an hour's work - but he does it anyway. His sense of justice demands it.

Today's Gospel tells us much about God and God's justice.

First, about God's justice. At the heart of the Old Testament is God's covenant with the people of Israel. God promised them that, if they stuck by him, he would never abandon them. God would always lavish his love on them, no matter how often or badly they let God down.

This covenant between God and God's people formed the template for how the people of Israel should live. They were to treat each other with justice because that was how God had treated them. They were to stand alongside the oppressed because God had stood alongside them when they were oppressed in Egypt. They were to care for the weakest in society, the widow and orphan, because God had cared for them in their distress. By being compassionate, they were simply mirroring God's compassion for them.

In the New Testament, Jesus epitomises God's justice. He stood alongside the poor. He identified with the most marginal. He said they would be first in the kingdom of heaven. Justice and compassion informed everything Jesus said and did, and it must be the same with us, he said.

Second, about good news. Today's Gospel declares it's never too late for us, for anyone. Salvation, redemption, is always available, even at the eleventh hour. The way the landowner acted towards his workers in the parable is the way God acts towards us. God is generous - more generous than any of us could ever be. God is just - more just than any of us could ever be. God is compassionate - more compassionate than we could ever be. It doesn't matter how long we've been serving him, or how recently we turned to him, or what our situation or history may be, God treats us generously and justly. Like the workers taken on at the eleventh hour, God wants all of us to be saved, no one to be excluded or forgotten. Whether we're stuck at the bottom of the economic ladder or trapped in a moral or spiritual haze, whatever the mess we're in, God's love envelopes us completely. This is the good news we need in 2023. ■

### PRAY

We are all aware of the appalling conditions in which children and vulnerable adults throughout the world are forced to work. Pray for them today, and pray for a more just world.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to see and treat others the way you see and treat them. Amen."

### REFLECT

Recently, I discovered a staggering statistic: The coronavirus pandemic has been very good for the super rich. The Institute for Policy Studies has calculated that in the first months of the pandemic the collective wealth of America's 643 billionaires increased from \$2.95 trillion to \$3.8 trillion. That works out to gains of \$4.7 billion a day - all during a time when the rest of the world was in economic turmoil.

A trillion is one billion million. An awful lot of noughts.

Of course, America isn't Europe. Still, worldwide, even before Covid-19, the pattern has been similar - wealth is being concentrated in fewer hands. A tiny number of people do very, very well out of the global economic order. The poor do not benefit at all. Soaring inflation has made life even more difficult for ordinary people and families.

Despite the remarkable progress humanity has made over the last century, economic inequality has grown - not lessened. Structural injustice has increased - not diminished. Billions struggle to survive, while oligarchs splash out on super yachts to flaunt how super rich they are.

This is a long way from God's vision for humanity, as revealed in the bible. It's a long way from Jesus's vision in today's Gospel.

The Book of Micah asks the question: "What does the Lord require of us?" And God's answer: "Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with God." Charity or philanthropy, no matter how generous, is no substitute for the work of justice. Pious prayers or easy words of consolation are no substitute for the work of justice. We must act towards others as God has acted towards us, even if it means we can never afford the price of a super yacht. ■

### LEARN

God's justice is ruled by generosity and compassion

All are equal in the eyes of God

### DO

If possible, try to ensure that the goods you buy are not the product of cheap or forced labour.