

Sunday Message

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 2 October 2022 • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



Doing our duty is a central theme of today's Gospel. Jesus tells a parable about what is expected of servants.

The situation he describes would have been familiar to his audience, a medium-sized farmer who can afford to employ a single worker as a jack-of-all-trades. The job spec would have been agreed upon when the servant was taken on and included working in the fields and helping around the house.

It would be unthinkable for the employer of such a servant to prepare the servant's dinner and wait on the servant at table. It would always be the other way around.

Jesus applies the parable directly to the disciples. They are servants of the Kingdom of God; therefore, they shouldn't expect to be thanked simply for doing what is required of them. They have no right to expect special treatment for doing what they are supposed to do anyway. ■

SAY

Repeat the words of the apostles in today's Gospel. Say slowly and prayerfully: "Lord, increase our faith."

LEARN

Real faith is not just assent to a list of teachings. Genuine faith is belief in a person. It is a deep relationship with God who reveals himself to us in Jesus.

The gift of faith is the greatest treasure one can possess.

To live the Gospel is to do our duty.

PRAY

God gives faith to all who asks for it. Pray for the light of faith and for the strength to live out its implications.

DO

Speak to people this week about your faith. Tell them why it is so important to you.

REFLECT

Today's Gospel reminds us of the importance of duty in our lives and the need to honour it. Duty is a dull word. It speaks of routine, obligation, reliability, monotony, having to do something. You are 'on duty' or 'duty calls'. It doesn't sound very exciting. It's not what you dream about when you're in school, and you're asked what your ambitions are for the future. You're unlikely to say, "I just want to be dutiful."

And yet there's a beautiful nobility about being dutiful. Family life and society could not function if people were not dutiful, if they did not fulfil the monotonous everyday tasks expected of them – cook dinner, do the shopping, take the children to the creche or school, iron clothes, put out the rubbish, help with homework, head out to work every morning whatever the weather.

There are other even more heroic examples of duty. Think of those who put their career on hold to look after an elderly parent or sick child. Those who go to a

nursing home or a hospital every day to spend time with a loved one; those who have raised children by years of putting themselves in second place or who held a marriage together through significant challenges because 'it was their duty.'

I know a woman who, in her old age, looked after four grandchildren after their mother had walked out on them. She should have been enjoying her old age, but she had to start mothering all over again, which she did with devotion and love. An awful lot for a woman in her 70s to take on, but she would insist that she was only doing her duty.

And that, at its heart, is what duty is all about – it is a practical expression of love in action. There are countless people who think of themselves as ordinary and do mundane but heroic, loving things every day. We all know people who fall into that category.

Today's Gospel also reminds us of another form of duty: that of witnessing to our

Christian faith and handing it on. To live the faith as best we can is to do our duty. It is returning the love that God has shown us.

That means not only the routine things like going to Mass that can often seem boring, mundane, and unexciting, but more heroic things, too, like standing up for the Gospel in a culture that is increasingly anti-religious and sacrificing your time and money out of love for neighbour or in service to the poor. As people of faith, doing all of this is doing no more than our duty.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples they should never expect a pat on the back for doing what they are called to do anyway as disciples. He is saying the same to us too. We should not expect to be congratulated for witnessing to our baptismal calling. We do it out of love. We do it out of gratitude for what God has done for us. And we know that when our hour of judgement comes, it will be sufficient reward. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762
Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

2nd October 2022
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

<p>Weekend masses</p> <p>Sat 6:00pm Dechomet 7:30pm Leitrim</p> <p>Sun 9:00am Gargory 11:00am Dromara</p> <p>Weekday masses</p> <p>Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet</p> <p>Tues 9:00am Dromara</p> <p>Wed 7:30pm Leitrim</p> <p>Fri 7:30pm Dromara</p> <p>The sick and housebound will be attended this week. If anyone needs to be added to the list, please let me know</p> <p>Receased deceased</p> <p>Hugh Pat O’Hare, Ringsend Rd, Ballymacilreiney</p> <p>John McAlarney, Newcastle</p> <p>Anniversaries (2023 Anniversary Book now available)</p> <p>Leitrim</p> <p>Sat 1st Teresa and Stanley Wright and Deceased Members of O’Hare Family</p> <p>Patricia Quail</p> <p>Thomas and Rose Armstrong and Anne Murray</p> <p>Bernard and Joey McAnulty</p> <p>Wed 5th Winnie Ward (MM)</p> <p>John McCrickard</p> <p>Sat 8th Anthony Pat McEvoy</p> <p>Patsy and Cissie McMullan</p> <p>Gargory</p> <p>Sun 2nd Patrick and Kathleen McAtee</p> <p>Dromara</p> <p>Fri 7th Patrick McKey (MM)</p> <p>Dechomet</p> <p>Sat 8th Bernard McElroy</p> <p>Slieve Croob Sunday Saunter Sun 2nd Oct, in aid of Mary's Meals, registration from 2:00pm, walk 2:30pm. Family walk. Donation only</p> <p>Blue Bay Café in Dundrum are holding a fundraiser day for Action Cancer, Sat 8th Oct, from 10am–3pm</p> <p>All donations will go directly to Action Cancer NI</p> <p>Gargory Altar Rota Oct - Rita & Clare</p>	<table><tr><td>Collections</td><td>Dromara</td><td>Drumgooland</td></tr><tr><td>Parish</td><td>£449</td><td>£818</td></tr></table> <p>We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Corey Owens</p> <p>Congratulations to Helen and Tom McAleenan on their Ruby (60th) Wedding Anniversary</p> <p>Drumgooland Parish Council Meeting Mon 3rd Oct 8pm</p> <p>Dromara Parish Council</p> <p>New Members are needed. If you are interested in giving a few years’ service, please let me know</p> <p>Do This In Memory The first part of the First Communion Preparation Programme will take place at all masses on 8th/9th Oct. The children do not need to bring anything with them</p> <p>Southern Area Hospice Annual Church Door Collection at all weekend masses on 15th/16th Oct</p> <p>Dromore Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2023</p> <p>The Dromore Diocese intends to organise a 5-day pilgrimage to Lourdes in May 2023 (<i>exact dates and prices to be confirmed</i>). Unfortunately, due to the pandemic it will be a different kind of pilgrimage, as we will not be using the hospital accommodation (Accueil) in Lourdes and will therefore be unable to support an assisted section in 2023. This means we will not have the same support from doctors, nurses and volunteers as we had pre pandemic. The pilgrimage will include general insurance cover (to include Covid 19 cover), transport to/from the airports, a programme of ceremonies in Lourdes, assistance of travel agent representatives in Lourdes. If you are interested in travelling to Lourdes as a pilgrim in May 2023, please contact Dromara & Drumgooland Lourdes Committee, Ann Kelly (Secretary) 07788 195938 or Kieran McEvoy (Chairperson) 07986 366162 or speak to any Committee Member no later than 25th Nov to declare your interest.</p> <p>Further details will be available later</p> <p>SVP Helplines Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07979815269</p> <p>Children/Adult Safeguarding P Carville 07789917741</p>	Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland	Parish	£449	£818
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