

# Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 12 February 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Today's Gospel is part of the Sermon on the Mount, which we have been reading over the past two Sundays.

The Sermon on the Mount takes up three whole chapters of Matthew's Gospel (chapters 5-7) and contains the main teaching of Jesus. But it would be wrong to think of it as a single event that took place one sunny afternoon on a mountainside when Jesus was in excellent preaching form. The 105 verses of the Sermon on the Mount are a collection of different pronouncements and sayings of Jesus that Matthew gathered and stitched together into one unit. They are a crash course in Christianity, one powerful statement of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. ■

## PRAY

Being a disciple of Jesus is not fashionable. Pray for the strength to follow Jesus faithfully. Pray for our church leaders that they will proclaim the Gospel with conviction.

## SAY

Lord, help me to follow you with a full heart and eyes wide open. Help me to integrate my faith into every aspect of my life.

## LEARN

Following Jesus involves far more than "keeping" rules and regulations. It is about conversion of mind and heart.

Conversion is something that happens every day.

## DO

Think about how you 'keep the faith'. What does it mean for you to follow Jesus? Is it just about going to Mass and the sacraments regularly, or does it mean much more than that?

## REFLECT

**Y**ou probably know the joke about the chicken and the pig. A chicken and a pig are discussing breakfast. The chicken says, "Let's have bacon and eggs." The pig replies, "That's fine for you. You're just making a contribution, but I have to be fully committed."

The poor pig would have to give up everything to provide a good fry for breakfast. He'd have to be fully committed. In a real sense, that's what today's Gospel from the Sermon on the Mount is about too. It's about being fully committed.

There's a big difference between Jesus' teaching and the old Jewish law.

The Pharisees and Jewish religious leaders of the time were focused on keeping the letter of the law. Observe the law, and you were upright in the eyes of God. But Jesus goes beyond that. He says keeping the law is more than just slavishly sticking to rules and regulations – it's about what goes on in our hearts.

You could say that while the Pharisees' view of the law was like that of the chicken, Jesus' view of the law is like that of the pig – it demands total commitment.

We see that contrast played out in today's Gospel. Jesus says: "You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill... But I say this to you: Anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before a court of law..."

"You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you..."

"You have learnt how it was said: You must not break your oath... but I say this to you..."

Jesus is going beyond the old law. He puts a new interpretation on it and takes it a step further. He is demanding greater commitment from his followers than merely keeping the letter of the law.

It's safe to assume that nobody reading this newsletter has killed anyone, and so, legally speaking, we can say we have kept the letter of the law. We have kept

the fifth commandment. But see how Jesus interprets that law to include much broader things like anger. He takes one of the commandments and gives it a far more challenging application.

And it is challenging. Take what he says about being angry with your brother or sister. Now think of some of the social and moral debates we have been having in this country. There is so much anger, venom, and sneering contempt directed at individuals and groups. Social media is full of it.

Jesus knows it is possible to keep the law – to avoid committing murder, adultery or false witness – and yet to sin against those commandments by breaking them in spirit. For him, what matters is not external observance but what goes on inside the human heart – our thoughts, our values, our attitudes, our motivations, what guides our whole approach to life. Following Jesus means internalising our faith, making it part of the very air we breathe. It means trying to live the Sermon on the Mount. It means always having an attitude of love. ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
6<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  
Tues 9:00am Dromara  
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim  
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

**Leitrim Chapel** – new rotas for the people who open and close the chapel.

**Ash Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

## Anniversaries

### Dechomet

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Stella Doyle  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Kevin Gregory

### Leitrim

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Fr Frank Lyons  
Frank & Margaret McElroy  
Seamus and Bridie Savage and  
Patricia Good-Savage  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Maggie and Mary O'Hare  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Eileen Cunningham (Moneyslane)  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> John McKay  
Owen, Rose, Eugene and Brendan McElroy

### Dromara

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Canon Barney Treanor  
Peter & Kathleen Gilmore  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Patsy McGrillen (MM)  
Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Mary McBride  
Philip Lundy and Deceased Members of  
McGrillen and Cauley Families

### Gargory

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Patrick, Elizabeth and Theresa McCartan

## SVDP contact numbers:

Dromara 077 3883 8191 Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

**Safeguarding contact:** P Carville 077 8991 7741

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish	£410	£791
Priest	£567	£1,211

## Collectors Needed

Volunteers to take up the collection are welcome in all the churches, women as well as men. Please give your name.

**Trócaire Boxes** available at the back of churches.

No Dromara Parish Council meeting this week.

## Bingo

Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group' on Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Feb at 3pm for a great afternoon of bingo in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm. Good fun, refreshments and great raffle prizes so please come along and show your support for the school.

## Fátima Pilgrimage

Led by Most Rev Eamon Martin,  
Archbishop of Armagh

20<sup>th</sup> Jul for 7 nights. £799 per person

- Direct return flights Dublin to Lisbon
- Return airport transfers in Fátima
- Full Board in Hotel Avenida
- Full religious programme
- Guided Tours: Sanctuary & Basilica
- Visits to Aljustrel and Valinhos

*Optional: travel insurance & single supplement*

For information, please contact Joe McLaughlin  
077 1180 8207

**Young people – 18 – 30 years old – World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal** – you are invited to join a million plus young people from around the World who will gather in Lisbon, Portugal for a Catholic Youth Festival – a great social event that invites all to celebrate their faith, share their culture and reach out to others – dates are 31<sup>st</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August– we have 6 places left – for more information email the Diocesan Youth Director. [youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org) or phone (028) 30833898 or 0778 694 3672. A great experience – not to be missed.