

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## First Sunday of Advent

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### 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

### Recently deceased



*Eugene Doyle, Ballynahinch Rd, Dromara*  
*William McCaugherty, Teconnaught*

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Dechomet

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup>** Olivia Fitzpatrick

#### Leitrim

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup>** Charlie, Bridgid, Jim, Jerome  
& Phelim Shields

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup>** Joe & Sinead Ward

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Fr Lionel Murray  
Arthur James Doyle  
Deceased Members of Behan Family  
Rosie McAleenan & Margaret O'Hare  
(Backaderry) & Deceased Family Members  
Patrick Charles McAleenan  
Helen Moorehead

#### Gargory

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** John King  
Alfie King

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>** Tommy McAleenan MM

#### Dromara

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Barney, Cassie & Pat Cunningham  
Peter & Roisin Ward  
Margaret, Edward & Eamon McCann  
& Deceased Family Members

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup>** Hugh & Hugh Cormac Smith  
Davy McKay

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>** Laura Armstrong, Hughie, Isabella  
& Hugh Lavery

Please enter 'The Friends of St Michael's Finnis Parents Group' Cash Call. Prize £500. Enter preferably via PayPal (select friends and family) or you can send money into the School with your name and mobile number. <https://www.paypal.me/FOSM1964>  
1 entry £10 or 3 for £20. The call will be made on **Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5pm**. Caller must be over 18 and must answer within 5 rings. Good luck!

### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £642 £768

*Thank you for continuing to support your parish*

I will attend the **sick & housebound** this week.  
If anyone wishes to be added onto the list,  
please let me know.

**Memory Cards** Thank you to the people who placed a memory card or photo before the altar in November. Please collect them, they are precious and I do not want any to be misplaced.

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish*  
*Eóin Patrick McKay*

**St Michael's PS, Finnis, Open Night**

**Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 6:30pm-7:30pm**

Contact the School on 02897532404.

**Our Lady's School, Newry, Open Night**

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.15 pm.**

**St Mary's PS, Dechomet Open Afternoon**

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 4:30pm-6:00pm**

**Christmas Carol Service Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am & 6pm.** in St Mary of the Angels Church, Dechomet.

**Peter Morgan's Cottage Christmas Connections**  
**Music Night for All the Generations**

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec from 7.30pm**

Children, Parents & Grandparents, Neighbours & Friends, Join Our Festive Music Evening & Sing, Recite, Play or Tell a Joke!! Christmas Tree Switch On; Craic with the Crackers & Festive Supper.  
Tel: 07717 732546. Supported by Linking Generations NI

**SVP Drumgooland Christmas Appeal 2024**

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. The **Christmas Appeal will commence 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Dec**. If you wish to contribute, please take a blue envelope from the back of the chapel and return it to the collection boxes over the month of December. Or you may wish to make a donation to:

St Patrick's SVP Drumgooland

Sort code 93-83-51 Account no. 07440031

All your donations will be spent in this area.

Thank you and Merry Christmas

**SVP Finnis, Christmas Collection Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

Thanks for your support throughout the year

**Floral Tribute to the Immaculate Conception on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.** A rose had been offered by the

Lourdes Committee to the Grotto in Lourdes on behalf of the Parishes, to join thousands of others from around the world in creating a magnificent bouquet, to thank everyone for their support in 2024

# Sunday Message

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year C • 1 December 2024 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1

## THE TRUTH OF THIS SEASON

LK 21:25-28, 34-36



Events in the world can alert us to the activity of God - or they can prove a huge distraction.

Jesus speaks of signs that the kingdom is near at hand, the kingdom that will bring liberation to all those who are captives. He stresses the importance of being alert, attentive to the signs that the kingdom is near. We can't be sure when all the events foretold will take place, so attentiveness must be second nature. Whatever happens, whenever it happens, the disciple must be prepared.

For Jesus, being attentive is not simply waiting idly for something to happen. Attentiveness is opportunity for prayer and preparation. The disciple knows that the glory of the Lord is just around the corner and lives in expectation, knowing that the present order will pass and the new order will take its place. When all comes to pass that is to come to pass, the attentive disciple will not be taken by surprise. ■

### DO

Put up an Advent wreath. Light a candle today and each Sunday of Advent, as you await the coming of the Lord.

### SAY

Say the opening lines of the psalm each day this week: "Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths."

### LEARN

Advent is the great season of waiting

The spiritual life is the way to everlasting happiness

God wants the best for us

### PRAY

Pray for those for whom this time of year is especially difficult. Ask the Lord to comfort them.

## REFLECT

It popped up on Facebook a few weeks before the 2016 US presidential election. A sensational story on its news feed claimed that Pope Francis had endorsed Donald Trump for president. To the casual user scrolling through Facebook, the story looked legitimate. But keen observers of the campaign as well as clued-in Catholics knew it had to be wrong. Popes don't publicly interfere in elections. Popes don't endorse specific candidates. It would have been a huge break with tradition, something Pope Francis simply would not do.

And yet there it was on Facebook. The way the story was written and presented made it look real. It could have been posted by a reporter for The New York Times or Associated Press. But it hadn't come from any of the mainstream media. It was an invented story, made up to influence the outcome of the election. It was part of an orchestrated campaign to encourage Catholics in swing states to vote in a certain way. It was part of what came to be known as fake news.

It did its job. The story about Pope Francis stood out because it was so blatantly false, yet even if one person in a thousand in a few key states changed their vote because of it, that would have been enough to sway the result.

Fake news is deliberate disinformation designed to deceive. It is lies and distortion of the kind used by Hitler and Goebbels, a strategy straight out of George Orwell's 1984.

After the election, Facebook and Twitter admitted their platforms had been used to spread false news not only during the presidential campaign but also during the Brexit referendum and other election campaigns too. Social media had been systematically corrupted by lies and misinformation. The result was that people ended up not sure as to what is fact and what is fiction.

"What is truth?" Pilate asked during the trial of Jesus. It's a question that has even

greater urgency in today's multi-media world. It is a question worth reflecting upon especially during Advent. Advent is the season of watchful waiting for the Lord's coming, the season of being attentive to God's presence. We are not to be misled by false gods or false promises. We are not to be misled by a misplaced emphasis on material things or on 'black Friday' or the commercialisation of Christmas. We are not to lose sight of the truth of this season - that the God who came among us to save us is with us now and will come again at the end of time to bring us to the fullness of life. We must be alert.

The truth of this season is that God is one with us and will never abandon us. Even when Church and State let us down, even when we're not sure what to believe any more, we can be certain of God's love and presence with us at all times. The Good News we celebrate during Advent is not fake news. It is the truth in the news, the truth that sets us free. ■