

6 FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER!

(LUKE 5:1-11)

Our Gospel reading today presents the calling of Jesus' first disciples. Jesus teaches the crowd from Simon's boat then tells him to cast his net for a netting of fish.

We learn that Simon and his companions have spent a fruitless night in such activity, but the captain puts his trust in the word of Jesus the rabbi and does as he instructs. The result is overwhelming.

This is the first personal appearance of Simon Peter. His reaction to this revealing of the power of Jesus is two-fold: first, he acknowledges that Jesus has divine power; he addresses him this time, not as Rabbi or Master, but as "Lord"; then he describes himself as "a sinful person". This does not mean that he is morally at fault in some way, but is the biblical way of describing the human person's feeling of awe when confronted by the Divine – as in the vision of Isaiah in the Temple.

Secondly, Peter asks Jesus to leave him, but ends up following him into the unknown. He thus represents the sinful person who responds positively to the person and message of Jesus. As a professional fisherman, he did not have much faith in Jesus' command to repeat the efforts of the night before, but had enough trust to do so and was overcome and converted by the outcome. The scene is set for Peter to become the spokesperson and leader of the disciples. ■

LEARN

Peter is not an infallible person or leader.

Peter's description of himself as "sinful" means that he recognises that he is in the presence of the Divine.

In Jesus' time, disciples usually chose their rabbi, not the other way round.

DO

If you disagree with anything your priest says, speak to him and discuss the matter with him. It is your right and responsibility.



SAY

I call you friends, says the Lord.
(John 15:15)

REFLECT

In Jewish culture, it was the practice for people to decide which rabbi's congregation they decided to join as they identified most closely with that person's interpretation of the Scriptures. The unusual aspect of Jesus's gathering of disciples is that he calls them, rather than they presenting themselves to him.

Simon Peter is an important and interesting character in the Gospel tradition. In our episode today, he represents someone confronted with the person of Jesus, who undergoes a

profound conversion and change of life. He and the others "leave everything and follow Jesus". Luke, in his writings, shows a deep suspicion of possessions and riches, seeing them as an obstacle to a proper commitment to Jesus and his teachings. Most of Jesus' disciples were family folk who had to provide for their children, so it is more the judicious use of material goods which is at issue, not the complete renunciation of them – as though that were possible.

Simon Peter is also a sympathetic

character who attracts much affection because he is so obviously human. He is a fallible person who is always getting it wrong, who is guided more by his heart than his head. It is his obvious attachment to Jesus which brings him through in the end. He is "sinful" only in the sense that he acknowledges that he is simply a human being in the presence of the Divine, so in that he is an example of faith and trust for us all.

The abundance of the catch is due to Peter's trust in Jesus. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 6th February 2022

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 Marc King, Castlewellan

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 5th Aidan McAnulty (MM)
Fr Jim Mooney
Patsy McGlue and Aidan McAleavey
Eileen and Christopher Behan
Sean Gribben
Annie Duggan and Deceased Family Members
Sat 12th Fr Frank Lyons
Rita Murray
Patricia Savage and Seamus and Bridie Savage

Dromara

Sun 6th Peter McEvoy and Martin Doyle
Kathleen O'Hare
Tue 8th Dan and Maud Rice and Deceased Family Members
Sun 13th Pat and Maire King and Deceased Family Members

Dechomet

Sat 12th Stella Doyle

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£400	£615

Leitrim Cleaners - Fri 11th Geraldine's Team

Gargory Altar Society - Feb Carmel & Geraldine

I will attend the **sick and housebound** this week
Mon 7th Leitrim and Gargory area
Tue 8th Dromara
Wed 9th Dechomet

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers please consider re-engaging with ministry. If anyone does wish to get involved, please come forward, your participation will be gratefully received.

Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day Fri 11th Feb

O, ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence, to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. I will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity.
Amen.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

The Society will host an online lecture by Hugh Daly, entitled "*Clare Castle & Classical Academy*" on Mon 14th Feb at 7:30pm. Hugh Daly is Secretary of the Poyntzpass & District Local History Society. Access to the event will be available from 7:20pm with a start at 7:30pm sharp. A link to the talk can be obtained by e-mailing the Hon Secretary goss.jjm@gmail.com and will be forwarded on Mon 14th Feb.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Popular historian Una Walsh will deliver a talk by Zoom on the history of *The 16 Townlands of Finnis Parish* on Tue 1st Mar at 7:30pm. Una has worked tirelessly to restore townland names to former prominence. To take part contact M McNeill on:
Phone: 077 0801 7219
Email: mariemcneill@hotmail.co.uk