

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

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

**29<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

*30<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

*Feast of All Saints*

**Tue** 7:30pm Dromara

**Wed** 7:30pm Leitrim

*Feast of All Souls*

**Thurs** 10am Gargory

7:30pm Dechomet

**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

## November Dead Lists

Available at the back of the churches,  
please return as soon as possible.

## ANNIVERSARIES

2024 Anniversary Book is now open



## DECHOMET

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>** Peter Joseph Kelly (*Derryneil*)  
& Deceased Family Members  
John Christopher Morgan

## LEITRIM

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>** Patsy, Jeannette & James Savage  
Annie B Morgan & Deceased  
Family Members  
John McLoughlin

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup>** Michael & Margaret McCartan

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup>** Pauline Kelly  
Rose McAleenan & Deceased  
Family Members  
Alice McAnulty

## DROMARA

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup>** Peter & Bridget McGrady  
Bridget, Peter & Frank McEvoy

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** Sarah Hughes (*Finnis*)  
Michael Rice

## GARGORY

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** Betty McGreevy

## SVP

Dromara 077 3883 8191  
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

## Safeguarding Contact

Patricia Carville 077 8991 7741

**Collections Dromara Drumgooland**  
Parish £383 £890

*Thank you for your contributions.*

## St Michael's Hall

There has been an accumulation of unused equipment in the Hall, on and under the stage. It was agreed that these will be removed and disposed of appropriately. If anyone wishes to collect items and equipment, please contact Mary on 078 5478 0974, as soon as possible.

This must be done by 17<sup>th</sup> Nov.

*We Welcome Leo Francis O'Higgins  
into Drumgooland Parish*

**Drumgooland Parish Council**  
(short) Meeting Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Nov at 8:30pm.

## Masses for Recently Deceased

Dechomet Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 7:30pm

Leitrim Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 7:30pm

Dromara Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 7:30pm

*Memory Cards can be placed  
before the altars in the churches*

*The names of those buried in the adjoining cemeteries over the past year will be read out and a member of the family will be asked to bring forth a candle. There will be an opportunity to bring forth a candle remembering those who have died longer than a year ago who are buried elsewhere.*

## Table Quiz

King's Bar, Finnis, Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, commencing at 8:30pm. Proceeds in aid of Lourdes Fund.

## Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine for Parents

Package £100, includes B&B in St Mary's, opposite the Shrine, evening meal & transport, pick ups Newry, Banbridge & Lurgan.

An enriching and memorable experience is on offer to all, through meeting likeminded people, experiencing the prayer of Knock and the joy of all you meet and travel with to Knock.

Please forward names & contact number to:

[youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org)

by 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Places are limited so book soon.

**Gargory Altar Rota:** Nov - Helen & Patricia

# Sunday Message

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

THE WORD

Year A • 29 October 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



## THE MEANING OF LOVE

MT 22:34-40

Most of us are very familiar with the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself."

The Law that the Pharisees liked to quote listed 613 commandments, and the Pharisees themselves were forever arguing as to which commandment was the greatest. When Jesus gave what he called the first and second commandments, he wasn't giving new commandments. Both were already found in the Old Testament. The commandment to love God (Deuteronomy 6:5) was part of the Shema, the basic creed of Judaism. Every Jewish service opens with this sentence. It's the first sentence every Jewish child learns by heart. It means that we must love God with a love that dominates our emotions, a love that directs our thoughts and decisions, a love that guides our every action. True religion begins with the love that is a total commitment of one's life to God.

The second commandment is from Leviticus 19:18. Our love of God, if it is real, must result in love of our fellow human beings. Each of us is made in the image of God, and the Bible tells us that God is love. If we claim to love God, then we must love those whom God loves. We must love everyone. St John put it very simply: "The command that Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love his brother (and sister) also" (1 Jn 4:21).

Love of God and neighbour go hand in hand. To love God means to love our neighbour also - no matter who our neighbour is or where our neighbour comes from. ■

## LEARN

Love of God and neighbour is the mark of the Christian

At the heart of our faith is the knowledge that God loves us without reservation

## PRAY

All our prayers mean little if we do not live lives of love. Pray for your parish, that all will know you are a Christian community by your love.

## SAY

"Lord, help me to love you and my neighbour to the best of my ability. Amen."

## DO

Show love of neighbour in a practical way this week. Visit someone in hospital or who lives alone.



## REFLECT

In her book, *Dear Life*, NHS doctor Rachel Clarke describes meeting a man who taught her a lesson on love. Michael was sitting in a cubicle in A&E, arms folded around his chest. Aged well into his 80s, he looked miserable.

The problem, he explained, was his chest. Tentatively, Dr Clarke opened his gown. And there, to her horror, cradled in his hands, was his pacemaker, covered in blood and puss, dangling from a hole in his chest.

Her first instinct was to shove it back into his chest and stitch him up fast. How could he have neglected himself for so long? Why did he allow the infection to fester until it exploded like a rotten melon?

It transpired that, some weeks earlier, a new battery was placed in Michael's pacemaker. A minor procedure, but shortly afterwards, he noticed redness and pain around the stitches. He ignored them, hoping they'd go away. The more his chest throbbed, the more it swelled and reddened. Still, he wouldn't go to hospital.

Because something meant more to Michael than his own heart - his wife of 60 years. Ever since Mary had been diagnosed with dementia three years earlier, he had been her sole carer. He cooked for her, dressed her, washed her, soothed her. She depended on him. If he ended up in hospital, who would care for her?

Terrified she'd be put in a care home, he

had endured the pain. Then, that morning, as he reached for a plate, he felt his skin rip. Suddenly, his shirt was drenched in puss. The scar above his pacemaker had burst, exposing his ribs to daylight. Only then did Michael dial 999.

As he spoke, he began to cry. As he feared, Mary had been taken to a care home. Now, he knew she was alone, confused, frightened, while he, literally, was heartbroken.

Dr Clarke was overwhelmed by the exceptional love of that husband for his wife. She realised she had met a man who so loved his wife he sacrificed his heart for her. Such is the power of unconditional love. ■