

Stu()space

SERIES: GOD IN THE EVERYDAY

Season colour: **GREEN**

In this new series, **Jim Deeds** finds evidence of the divine in the ordinary and extraordinary events of every day.



PASS THE
FAITH ON
WITH
LOVE

Growing up, I had the lucky experience of having a wonderful grandfather – Jimmy Webb, my mother's father. Sadly, my paternal grandfather had died years before I was born. So all my grandfather time was with Jimmy. As the eldest of his grandchildren, I was the first to spend time with him. Much of this time was spent visiting friends and relatives. Jimmy had a love of people and wanted to share it with me. I would like to share two very different experiences with you.

The first occurred when I was around 7 years old, and Granda and I had gone on one of our regular visits to his sister Lilly. Lilly was a kind and loving older woman. She was also what Belfast people call a 'targe.' That means she was formidable, held strong opinions and was a bit bossy. On this visit, my aunt Lilly went to the kitchen to make tea. But instead of bringing back the usual cup of tea for Granda and one for herself, she carried a tray with three cups of tea. Realising that the third cup was for me, I looked at the tray and then at my Granda and said, "Granda, I don't like tea."

Well, a look of panic spread across his face! With a wild look in his eyes, he said, "Oh, just drink it. She went to all the trouble." I knew he was worried that she would "barge" him. (*This word means 'to shout at or grump at.' It's common in Belfast for a targe to barge!)

Out of love for my Granda and a little of the fear I caught from him, I forced the tea down my throat as we sat there in her little front room. Forty years on and I've never drank a cup of tea since. The smell and sight of it remind me of that formative, uncomfortable experience.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Let me share a different experience (or set of experiences) I had whilst visiting relatives with my grandfather as a child. Granda loved to sing, and he taught all his grandchildren to sing from an early age. Wherever we went, he'd get me to sing. I

stood at the front of many a living room and belted out one of the old Belfast songs he had taught me. He got me to do this through infecting me with his love of music while learning the songs and through great praise of the sound coming out of my mouth – even when I made a mistake or strayed off tune. All in all, learning songs and singing them was an experience of love and accompaniment. I remember the smile on his face to this day. It is seared into my memory and my very soul. The result is that I've sung and played music every day since then. Indeed, I can't imagine a day without playing the guitar and belting out a song or two.

Isn't it interesting how those two experiences differed so much? One was a pressured and fearful experience, and one was a gentle and loving experience. Both took root deep within me. Both had implications for me later in life. It's worth reflecting on this when we come to consider young people today.

What do we want to hand on to our children in terms of skills, behaviours, ethics, manners and outlooks we would like them to have? What do we want them to 'catch' in terms of their view on spirituality and religion? I'm sure that, as people of faith, we would love to think they would have a sense of the existence of God, the beauty of our faith and the great love God has for all creation.

How might we hand these on to the next generation? Do we force them down their throat like a cup of tea from my aunt Lilly? If we do, we can be sure we'll put them off religion.

The better path is to support, teach, nurture and encourage them, loving them in the times when they stray from the path of faith and loving them right back on to it again. If we do so, we can be sure they will develop their own mind on the issues and be more amenable to holding on to those things with love, which they will then pass on to others in time. ■



Today's readings

Gs 2:18-24
Heb 2:9-11
Mk 10:2-16

GOD'S WORD TODAY

To enter the kingdom of heaven, the disciples of Jesus must become like children before God. One of the most obvious things about young children is how utterly dependent they are on their parents or guardians for all they need in life. As Christians, that must be our stance before God too. We have to become like little children, recognising how totally dependent we are on God, who loves us first.

Love is the key to handing on the faith.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 3rd October 2021

Sponsor a Hospice Nurse Campaign

This month as we celebrate **Hospice Care Week** (4th-8th Oct), we reflect on the amazing support we continue to receive and the challenges we have had to face over the last 19 months. The coronavirus pandemic has been extremely challenging for us at Southern Area Hospice Services. We have had to adapt quickly and ensure that the care of our patients and their families is our top priority. At times it has been heart breaking with reduced visiting and restrictions, but we have always aimed to do our best in these difficult circumstances and ensure families are supported throughout. Our wonderful nurses are the beating heart of Hospice, and we recognise the changes they have had to adapt to but in the most professional and caring of ways. Therefore, we are launching our **Sponsor a Hospice Nurse** Campaign where we are asking you contribute a regular gift to Hospice through a monthly donation in order to support our future. By sponsoring a nurse for a gift as little as £10 per month you will be helping our hospice to care for and support patients and families today, tomorrow and into the future. To sign up to Sponsor a Nurse visit our website at www.southernareahospiceservices.org/sponsor-a-nurse or contact us on 028 302 67711. We can only continue to care because you do. *Thank you.*

Southern Area Hospice church door collection 23rd/24th Oct. If anyone wishes to assist with this collection, please volunteer.

Parish Collections

Dromara £255 Drumgooland £626

Recently deceased

Francis McEvoy, Ardtanagh, Dromara
Harry McKay, Castlewellan Road, Dromara
Marie McFarlane (nee McEvoy), Carryduff, formerly Gargory

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 2nd Barney and Joey McAnulty

Sat 9th Anthony Pat McEvoy

Gargory

Sun 3rd Peter and Kathleen McAtee

Dromara

Fri 8th Seamus McEvoy

Lourdes 59 Club

12th June No. 50 John McKay

19th June No. 14 C&M Doyle

26th June No. 19 Jos Doyle

3rd July No. 23 Mary McKay

10th July No. 1 - No. Available

17th July No. 1 - No. Available

24th July No. 59 - No. Available

31st July No. 48 - No. Available

7th Aug No. 58 Martin O'Donnell

14th Aug No. 58 Martin O'Donnell

21st Aug No. 51 Mary O'Hare

28th Aug No. 41 Brian Doyle

4th Sept No. 34 No. Available

11th Sept No. 39 F.&T. McEvoy

18th Sept No. 12 Maire Ward

Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

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

Do This In Memory - preparation for First Holy Communion in 2022. There will be a welcoming Sunday 8th/9th Oct, children may attend mass of watch at home.

Sick and housebound - if anyone wants to talk about receiving Holy Communion, please ring me

Broadband has been connected into Leitrim chapel, hopefully this will improve the quality of connection. When BT has improved broadband speeds at Dechomet and Gargory, they will also be connected.

The Diocese of Dromore has opened a Redress Scheme for survivors and victims of sexual abuse perpetrated by members of the clergy and others acting under the authority of the Diocese. Details of the Scheme can be found on the following website: www.dromoredress.org

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society AGM

Mon 11th Oct at 7:30pm, on Zoom. After the AGM there will be a Talk at 8:00pm by Martin Goss entitled "An Irish Airman and the Llandow Air Disaster, March 1950". Any member wishing to participate in this AGM is invited to e-mail the Hon Sec: goss.jjm@gmail.com requesting the link to the meeting. Non-members are most welcome to the talk and will be admitted after the AGM.