

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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7th Sunday in ordinary time
23rd February 2025

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

Ash Wednesday masses

7am Leitrim 10am Gargory
7pm Dromara 8pm Dechomet

First Confession

Tues 11th Mar 6:30pm St Matthew's
Tues 11th Mar 7:30pm St Mary's
Tues 25th Mar 7pm St Michael's

ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 22nd Patrick Malone
Sat 1st Patrick McCartan

Gargory

Sun 23rd Theresa, Elizabeth & Patrick McCartan
Sun 2nd Deceased Members of McAlerney
Family (*Ribadoo*)

Dromara

Sun 23rd Mary McBride
Philip Lundy & Deceased Members
of Lundy, McGrillen & Cauley
Families
Sun 2nd Pete & Kathleen Gilmore

Dechomet

Sat 1st Willie Rooney
Brian, Colm & Sr Josephine Rooney

Rotas for March

Gargory Altar – Carmel & Geraldine
Dromara Collectors – Jimmy & Joe
Dromara Counters – Peter & Elizabeth

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Stephen Sherry
07301246329/safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Collections Dromara Drumgooland
Parish £390 £2,370

Thank you for your continued contributions

St Michael's Hall donations:

Scór £100; Friends of St Michael's PS £120

Thank you to all who use the Hall and
contribute towards its running costs.

Trócaire boxes are available at the back of
the churches, please do take one home.
A box on display is a visible reminder that
other people are in need, they will benefit
from our prayer and generosity

Dechomet Hall

Dechomet Community Association wishes
to lease the Hall from the parish. The original
idea was to seek grants to refurbish the hall,
but a survey on the structure made it clear that
it would be better to demolish and rebuild.
The Parish Council has accepted a lease document
drawn up by the parish solicitor. The Community
Association and the Diocese are studying the
proposed lease. The parish will continue to
own the site but will lease it to the Community
Association, which will then be in a position
to seek funding to build a new hall to serve
the needs of the local community and be
available to the parish.

Dromara Parish Council meeting
Mon 10th Mar at 8pm in St Michael's Hall

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Music Session with Ray Fri 28th Feb at 7:30 pm
Come and play sing, recite, dance or just enjoy.
Light supper provided.

World Day of Prayer Fri 7th Mar 8pm
St Michael's, Finnis. Everyone Welcome

Community Defibrillator

Information session and demonstration
of the Community Defibrillator at
Peter Morgan's Cottage
Tues 11th Mar at 7:30pm

Please come along and inform yourself
about this vital piece of life-saving equipment.
The team would like an indication of numbers.
Please phone 07708017219 if you plan to attend.

Sunday Message

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 23 February 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

THE GOLDEN RULE

LK 6:27-38

Today's Gospel is from Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, Luke's version of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. It is Jesus' vision for how his disciples are to live.

There are two major themes in the section we read today. The first is a teaching on love of enemies. The second is a call to imitate the compassion of God the Father.

Jesus gives four practical examples of love of enemy. The first is how to respond to verbal abuse. If someone curses a disciple of Jesus, they should not meet it with another curse but with a blessing, perhaps even with a word of praise. When they are treated badly, they should respond by praying for those who mistreat them. When it comes to physical ill-treatment, if struck on the cheek, they must not retaliate but turn the other cheek.

The third area has to do with property. Jesus begins with an example – the theft of one's clothes. Clothing in his time was relatively simple. Underwear consisted of a strip of cloth used as a loin-cloth. Over this was worn a light garment, like a long tunic or shirt, tied at the waist with a belt or sash so that the loose ends could be tucked up when at work. In cold weather or when travelling, a heavier

woollen cloak was worn that could double as a blanket when required. If a robber demanded the cloak, the disciple was not to fight to retain it but to offer even the tunic as well.

The fourth example concerns borrowing and lending. Disciples are to give to anyone who asks and not even to expect the return of stolen property.

Now Luke gives what has been called 'the Golden Rule' – treat others as you would like them to treat you. This teaching is not exclusive to Christianity. Rabbin, even before Jesus' time, taught a version of it. It was known to religious teachers in China and India, and to philosophers in Greece and elsewhere. It is probably the highest pinnacle of human wisdom and its common sense cannot be doubted.

But Jesus' teaching goes a step beyond it. The call is not so much to treat people in the way you expect to be treated but to reach into God's utter compassion for God's creation and to imitate that. Everything Jesus said and did was a living out, a repetition, of the Golden Rule. Imagine the kind of world we would have, and the relationship between peoples and nations that would exist, if we all lived according to the Golden Rule. ■

as ever. Social media has facilitated an explosion of hate speech. To adopt Jesus' vision is to change how we behave. It is to treat everyone as we would like to be treated.

Second, Jesus asks us to keep returning to his vision, to never give up. Of course, we will fail. Of course, we will behave in shameful ways. Of course, we will rush to judge and to condemn and treat badly. We do these things because we are human, after all. We give into selfishness, anger and tribalism because we are frail, broken and imperfect. But Jesus knows this. The challenge is to brush ourselves clean every time we fail. To never give up trying to live his way.

In the 1980s, civil war raged in Nicaragua. The left-wing Sandinistas eventually claimed power. The Sandinistas had a lot of support in the Church from those who believed the Church should be actively on the side

DO

Reflect on today's Gospel. If you were in court and this Gospel was a charge sheet assessing how successful you are at following Jesus, what would the verdict be?



PRAY

Pray for an increase of harmony between peoples and nations, for an end to violence and conflict.

SAY

"Lord, help me to live by your Golden Rule. When I fail, help me to pick up the pieces. Amen."

LEARN

The Christian must live by the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

REFLECT

To live according to the Golden Rule is not easy, as we know. The vision of Jesus is at odds with how the world operates. It turns the standard way of behaving upside down. For all the progress humankind has made, for all our advances in technology and science, for all our development in human rights, we still have a lot of evolving to do if we are to live like Jesus.

Eight decades after the Holocaust, anti-semitism is increasing again, especially after the war in Gaza. In Ireland, more than half of immigrants say they experienced racism in the past year.

Today, there are more displaced people than at any time since the Second World War, while millions of women are trafficked into sex slavery annually. Bullying, domestic violence, homophobia all remain as rampant

of the poor. One Sandinista government minister was a Catholic priest, Fr Ernesto Cardenal. The Vatican disapproved of his political activism, and when the pope visited Nicaragua in 1984, a famous photograph shows him wagging his finger at Cardenal, who is kneeling before him for his blessing. Cardenal's faculties were removed, and he could no longer function as a priest.

Fast forward to 2019 and another photograph. This time, Cardenal, now 94, is in a hospital bed. He is dressed in priestly garments and is celebrating Mass. Pope Francis has restored his priestly faculties, treated him with compassion. In the photograph, the old man is at peace. Happy.

The message of Jesus in today's Gospel is clear: let love be our guiding motive; let mercy dictate all we do; treat others as we would like to be treated. Seek, like Jesus, to turn our broken world upside down. ■