

A FAREWELL GIFT

(JOHN 14:23-29)



As Eastertide draws near to its close, our gospel reading today introduces the theme of Jesus' departure, his return to the Father.

But the disciples will receive two gifts, distinct but related. First, the Paraclete will come from the Father and will continue Jesus' mission of teaching the disciples, leading them into an ever-deepening appreciation of his message as they remember all that Jesus has said to them. The Paraclete will maintain Jesus' presence among the disciples. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be the second Paraclete, just as Jesus was the first, so that might help us to understand the role of the Spirit once Jesus is no longer physically present.

The second gift is that of peace, but it is Jesus' peace, something that the world cannot match. It is connected with the gift of the Spirit, the Paraclete, and is from God. It is not the absence of strife in human relations, but rooted in the Spirit of truth, and Jesus goes on to talk about how the disciples should not be distressed at his leaving them, as he is going back to the Father, an idea which we find only in the Fourth Gospel. Jesus' departure may be marked by violence and malice on the part of his opponents, but he accepts this as his way of returning the Father's love for him. This should not be a cause of fear for the disciples, but rather one of joy. ■

REFLECT

The Easter event is not simply about the Resurrection of Jesus: the final act of the Paschal mystery is the conferring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. In our gospel reading today, we are invited to look forward to the consequence of Jesus' going back to the Father, which will be the giving of the Holy Spirit who will continue Jesus' presence among us and within us.

But we will not benefit from this gift unless we are open to the Holy Spirit and prepared to allow the Paraclete to influence our thoughts and actions. The peace – *shalom* – which Jesus promises flows from Jesus' union with the Father and our union with Jesus. The gift of peace was associated in the Hebrew scriptures with the Messiah.

Jesus is not promising a trouble-free existence for his followers (then or now) but rather a rooted way of being which can cope with the troubles which arise in human life. 'Peace' in the Hebrew sense is more a matter of total well-being, of having a firm anchor of faith within ourselves which helps us face the problems which we encounter. This is one of the reasons for the giving of the Holy Spirit, the other Paraclete. But the Spirit can only function in our lives if we are open to the Spirit. Soon we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus; we might ask ourselves in the next few days how we appreciate the ongoing presence of Jesus with us and what that means. ■

LEARN

The Easter mystery includes the events surrounding the Resurrection of Jesus, the Ascension and Pentecost.

The giving of the Spirit is the fulfilment of Jesus' promise to his disciples.

The word "Advocate" in today's reading is an alternative to the term Paraclete.

SAY

Abba, Father, send your Spirit, Glory, Jesus Christ

(Ginny Vissing)

DO

Try invoking the Holy Spirit the next time you are faced with a difficult situation and see what happens.



Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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6th Sunday of Easter – 22nd May 2022

Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet
7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory
11:00am Dromara

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 21st Susan Greeran
Mon 23rd James and Mary Catherine Doyle (Closkelt)

Leitrim

Sat 21st Nora McEvoy; Jim McAnulty (Backaderry) and Deceased Family Relatives
Wed 25th PF and Mary Rose McCartan
Sat 28th Denis and Roseann O'Prey; Annie Moorehead; Joe and Agnes McEvoy

Dromara

Sun 22nd Michael Reavey; Mary Ann and Seamus Lundy
Fri 27th Barney and Kathleen O'Hare (Finnis) Seamus and Cecilia McCullough
Sun 29th Vincent and Desmond O'Hare; Rosey Williams

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

Gargory immediately after 9am mass

Dromara 12noon **Leitrim** 3pm **Dechomet** 5pm

The day works well due to the many volunteers who help with parking of cars; collectors; readers, etc. If you can help in any way, please step forward. Parking for the less abled will be reserved as follows: Finnis and Leitrim - church car parks Dechomet - front of the church (Closkelt Road). Leitrim - for those who are less abled and wish to park in the car park, please by there by 2:45pm to ensure that you get parked. There is plenty of space around the Parochial House, on the tarmac and the grass, please use it, but leave the exists free. Please co-operate with those who are generous enough to assist with the parking. Please do not park in a way that blocks a private entrance. A collection will be taken up at each service towards the cost of maintaining the cemeteries.

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£401	£783

We welcome into Dromara Parish Connala Kelly

Congratulations to Niamh O'Higgins and Stephen Tierney who were married recently.

Congratulations to the P4 children of the parish schools who have celebrated their First Holy Communion this month.

Dromara Readers

Nicola Brennan has agreed to coordinate the rota, please contact her at 075 1414 9631, so that she has your contact details.

Leitrim Cleaners Fri 27th Bridie's Team

The **All Ireland Rosary Rally** will take place in Knock on Sat 4th June from 1.30 pm. The main celebrant will be Archbishop Okolo, Papal Nuncio to Ireland. Homilist: Bishop Michael Duignan. Rosary Talk: Fr. Marius O'Reilly. If interested in travelling by coach, contact: Paddy 07979501228 or Siobhán 07857251422 by text anytime or call after 5pm.

2022 Guided Tours of Newry Cathedral

We are pleased to announce that, following the interruption caused by the pandemic, we will once again offer guided tours of the cathedral on the following dates:

Thurs 9th June at 11.30 am

Wed 15th June at 7 pm

Wed 6th July at 2 pm

Wed 20th July at 7 pm

Wed 10th August at 2 pm

Wed 24th August at 7 pm

Each tour will take approximately 90 minutes.

Please meet at the main door of the Cathedral. You will hear the story of the building of the Cathedral, 1825-1829, and of the later extensions. The history of its stained glass, marble altars, sculptures and magnificent mosaics will also be explained.

There is no charge for these tours.

Participants are asked to please wear a mask and observe social distancing.