

## WE RESPOND

Every time we are called, we are invited to respond. We go in for dinner; we walk over to our friends; we reply to our spouse – we hear the call and we respond accordingly. But what about when it is God calling us? How do we respond then?

## HE CALLED THEM

It is from the Gospel of Mark (1:20) that this week I take the three words "he called them". It is part of the passage where Jesus calls the first disciples. After inviting Simon and Andrew to follow him, Jesus then sees James and John mending their fishing nets and he calls them also. God is an active God – ever at work in our lives, and in each one of us personally. Right now, he is calling you.

## NUNS AND PRIESTS?

In Catholic lingo, to be 'called by God' often leads us to immediately think of vocations to the priesthood or religious life, or of the vocation to married life. In one sense, that is true, these are states of life to which God may be calling you or me, but it doesn't stop there. God calls every single person to something incredible, and he invites us to respond to that call.

## CALLED TO WHAT?

In Scripture we are told that God calls each of us to use our specific gifts and talents in a variety of services (1 Cor 12:27-31). What is the particular

service you find yourself drawn towards? What need is there that your talents can help meet? How are you responding?

It doesn't stop there. Scripture also tells us that the idea of 'call' goes further and deeper than what 'work' we are moved to do. Being 'called' involves following Jesus in every aspect of our life, not just in part of it. That's the incredible thing! God has created us in his image and likeness, and we are each called to reflect that image in our everyday life – in who we are, in how we interact with others, in what we do with our time, in how we see ourselves and see the world around us. You and I are called to be our truest self in the world. How is that going for you? Is there something that needs to shift?

## MY RESPONSE

Every one of us is called by God. The question I have for you to ponder is: 'What is it God is calling me to at this moment in my life?' Can I sense something stirring within me? A seed, planted by God, now starting to break forth? Notice what comes into your heart and your mind as you ponder this...

Then I invite you to reflect on how you wish to respond. Perhaps you have been tiptoeing around what it is you feel moved towards; perhaps you have been trying your best to ignore it or put it to the back of your mind, because you are frightened, or doubtful about being ready or able; perhaps you want to respond "Yes" but don't know how to start; perhaps you have been doing your level best to follow his call but seem to be stuck in some way. Whatever it is that is going on within you, invite God to help you. Pray to God about it, name your thoughts, name your feelings, and then be patient, and allow the Spirit to move within you.

God is calling. What's it to be? ■



## Today's readings

Acts 10:25-26.

34-35. 44-48

1 Jn 4:7-10

Jn 15:9-17

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

There are a number of key words that set the tone for this passage: love, joy, commandment, friend (as opposed to slave). The disciples are bound to each other by the same kind of love that binds the Son to the Father. Just as the good son obeys his father's will, so Jesus has come to do the will of the Father and has kept his commandments. Commandments here are not dry, formal precepts: a truly loving son is always on the look-out for how he can give his father pleasure, and does not wait for a formal precept but will be able to view how his loving father views life. The greatest commandment that will sustain the life of the community is to love one another. The test of how genuine their love will be is indeed a searching one. Are they willing to perform humble tasks and to become each other's slave?

9 May 2021 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year B

Psalter Week 2

# Stu(space)

SERIES: JUST THREE WORDS

Season colour: WHITE

In this series, **Clare Gilmore** explores the sheer depth contained in 'just three words'.

# HE CALLED THEM



We all know what it's like to be called. Think about it. Remember when you were a child, playing outside, and your mum or dad called you in for dinner... Maybe you arrive to meet friends at a bar and when they see you, they call your name... Or you're at home and your spouse calls to you from another room – we all know what it's like to be called. There's one thing all these calls have in common. Do you know what it is?

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Anniversary Masses

#### Leitrim

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Tommy and Josie Bannon  
John Donnelly  
Patrick and Marie O'Hare (Backaderry)  
John Murphy  
Katherine Love

#### Dromara

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Mary Galbraith  
Patrick McEvoy, Ardtanagh

#### Gargory

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Peter, Mary Gerry and Patsy Owens

### Recently deceased

Sheila McGreevy (nee Branniff), formerly  
Drumkeeragh  
Mary Burns, Castlewellan

### Cemetery Service

There will be no cemetery gatherings this year.  
A service of blessing and remembrance will be  
streamed on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 12 noon.  
All graves will be blessed at a different time  
prior to the service.

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish  
Rían Owens

Collections	Parish	Priest
Dromara	£444	£493
Drumgooland	£1467	£2885

### Pope Francis prays for the end of the pandemic

Pope Francis has requested that during the month of May the intercession of Our Lady be invoked to bring an end to the pandemic. He has invited us all to pray the Rosary for those who have been affected by Covid-19.

The date of 10<sup>th</sup> May, at 5pm, has been assigned to Ireland for the leading of prayers at the International Marian Shrine at Knock. On that date we are especially asked to remember in our intentions all people with disabilities.

The event can be viewed live at the following link <https://www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live/>.

**Accord NI** is recruiting for the Certificate in Counselling (Marriage and Relationship) training program (Sept '21). All details are on the Accord website:  
[www.accord.ie/joining-accord/becoming-a-counselor](http://www.accord.ie/joining-accord/becoming-a-counselor)

### 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

### Trócaire

This year the Lenten Campaign has received matched funding from the UK government. All donations must be received by the end of May in order to be forwarded to Trócaire in time. A simple way to double your generosity.

### Gift Aid Update

The parishes are obliged to keep their records updated. A letter has gone out to all those who have signed Gift Aid forms to check if they are still paying tax. Please return the form as soon as possible.

### Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and need a helping hand?  
Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427