

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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15th October 2023

28th 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

Tue 9:00am Dromara

Wed 7:30pm Leitrim

Fri 7:30pm Dromara

ANNIVERSARIES

2024 Anniversary Book is now open

DECHOMET

Sat 14th Michelle Doyle
Eileen Fitzpatrick

LEITRIM

Sat 14th Rory Savage
Mary, James, John & Bel Malone
Pat & Mary Theresa Morgan (*Legananny*)
Marc McAnulty

Wed 18th Willie McCartan (*Ballymaginthy*)

GARGORY

Sun 15th Matt & Kathleen Ward
& Deceased Family Members

DROMARA

Sun 15th Peter, Catherine, James
& Peter McKenny (*Drinn*)
John, Sarah & Peter Rogan
& Marian Hampson

Fri 20th Declan O'Hare (MM)
Bernard McCann

Sun 22nd Edward McBride (*Kilclief*)

Masses for Recently Deceased

Dechomet Mon 6th Nov

Leitrim Wed 8th Nov

Dromara Fri 10th Nov

Ballynahinch Child Contact Centre provides a safe, friendly, and neutral place where children of separated families can spend time with the non-resident parent and sometimes other family members. Volunteers are integral to this service and Ballynahinch Child Contact Centre is currently seeking to recruit more volunteers. There is a rota to cover sessions on Wed afternoons and Sat mornings each week, and there is no expectation of the frequency of sessions a volunteer needs to commit to. The coordinator of Ballynahinch Child Contact Centre is Grace Leigh, text/call 077 6929 3446, or email: hinchcontactcentre@gmail.com if anyone is interested in obtaining more information. This link provides some additional information on the role of the Contact Centre <https://youtu.be/ZQ9p0kUWQJY>

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £730 £1281

Priest £630 £958

Figures include Aug standing orders.

Thank you for your contributions.

Southern Area Hospice

£806.10 was collected last week.

If anyone wishes to make a donation, please place it in an envelope, marked 'Hospice' and put it on the collection basket at mass.

Do This In Memory

The preparation for First Communion continues on 21st/22nd Oct at all masses. The children are asked to bring a pair of *rosary beads*, which will be blessed.

New Eucharistic Ministers

Anyone who is interested in becoming an Eucharistic Minister in any of the churches please come to a meeting **in the Parochial House on Tues 17th Oct at 7:30pm.** This meeting will give people a chance to learn about the role and then choose if you want to be involved.

Lighting in Leitrim Cemetery

The lighting will be on during evening mass. If a person wishes to turn on the lights whilst visiting the cemetery, there is a button on the wooden post as you enter from the car park. The lights will stay on for 20 minutes.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

Music Session Fri 20th Oct 7:30-11pm.

Great Music, Song and Stories.

All welcome. Light supper served.

BINGO Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group' on **Sun 22nd Oct at 3pm** for a great afternoon of Bingo in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm. Good fun, refreshments and a raffle, so please come along and show your support for the school.

Rosary at the Windy Gap Wed 25th Oct 8pm

SVP: Dromara 077 3883 8191
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact:
P Carville 077 8991 7741

Sunday Message

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 15 October 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

OPEN INVITATION

MT 22:1-14



Imagine how surprising it would be to receive a dinner invitation - from God! That's exactly what happens in today's Gospel, as Jesus continues to describe what the Kingdom of God is like.

Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is like a king who gave a great feast for his son's wedding. But the people he has invited to the feast are not interested. The guests don't show up. They make excuses and avoid committing themselves.

The king is furious, and tells his servants that the invited guests are unworthy of the banquet. Instead, the servants are to go out onto the roads and streets and invite absolutely everyone they can find. There is no more need for personal invitations. Everyone is welcome. The king has gone to a lot of trouble, and doesn't want his efforts wasted. Before long, the wedding hall is full of guests.

In the parable, the king represents God. The great feast was a traditional Jewish image for God's kingdom. We see this in today's first reading from Isaiah. Matthew is telling the story of God's involvement with his people, and how that is played out in the life of Jesus. Matthew knows the end of the story. He has seen how Jesus has been rejected by the people of Israel, for whom he came. The people have rejected God's invitation over and over again, and so the Good News is now preached to the Gentiles. God is throwing open the gates of the kingdom to everyone everywhere.

God is a gracious host who hopes that everyone will come to his feast. As Christians we are called to respond to his invitation. ■

PRAY

Pray for those who have rejected God's invitation to his wedding feast. Pray for yourself, that you will respond more fully to God's invitation.

DO

Look at your life and your priorities. What excuses might be keeping you from putting God first?

SAY

"Lord, help me to say yes to you always. Amen."

LEARN

God's grace is unlimited

God is a gracious host who hopes that everyone will come to his feast

The wedding feast is an image of the Kingdom of heaven

REFLECT

Invitations can be wonderful. You are asked to go some place or attend some event, and you are delighted. You feel special, you feel wanted, and then there is the joy of anticipation - looking forward to the occasion.

On the other hand, there are few feelings worse than being excluded from a party or event, especially if we expected to be invited and find we have been left out. Many friendships have ended because of a failure to invite somebody - a family member or neighbour - to a wedding or a celebration of some kind. Those not invited feel hurt, snubbed, let down. The friendship may not recover.

The wonderful good news is that, when it comes to the heavenly feast, we don't have to worry about being invited. We have all been invited. Every one of us has been given a personal, gold-embossed invitation. All that is asked of us is that we respond wholeheartedly to this invitation by doing our best to live in tune with the values of the kingdom. ■