

23 JANUARY 2022

Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

RECOVER YOUR VISION!

(LUKE 1:1-4; 4:14-21)



We begin today our reading of the Gospel of Luke, our Gospel text for this season of 'Ordinary Time'.

He opens his account with a dedication to his patron, Theophilus, with an explanation of his reasons for embarking on a work which others – in his view, unsatisfactorily – had done before him. He stresses the research he had done on the sources from "eyewitnesses and ministers of the word", thus assuring his readers that the material he is presenting is reliable, but better-ordered than those others currently available at his time of writing.

Our extract then passes to the outset of Jesus' ministry, carried out in "the power of the Spirit", a recurrent theme in Luke's version. He situates Jesus very much in the tradition of the Israelite prophets by presenting him as quoting from the prophet Isaiah when announcing his programme in the synagogue at Nazareth. The focal point of this scene is the line "restoring of sight to the blind". The theme of seeing is important in Luke's Gospel, so we should be aware of that and all related terms, such as blindness. It is interesting that the evangelist talks about restoring sight to blind people: we might remember when listening to the Gospel extracts that Jesus is giving back vision to people who have lost it, rather than granting sight to people born without it. ■

REFLECT

Jesus' programme for his ministry is set very much in terms of liberation; his message is one of good news. He announces a jubilee year, one during which sin is forgiven, debts are cancelled and people are given the chance of a new start. At the heart of this mission is recovery of vision which has been lost, not necessarily through bad will but just through the daily round of ordinary life. We can become absorbed in the cares and worries of life and thoughts of faith and our relationship with God can be pushed to the back of our mind.

That is why our weekly celebration of the Eucharist is so important: it keeps our vision clear and reminds us of the person we would like to be and are trying to become.

Many people say that Luke's version is their favourite Gospel. His picture of Jesus is gentle and accepting. At the same time, Luke is clear about the danger of wealth, that it can be an obstacle to being a disciple of Jesus. We know that we cannot survive without money and shelter, but Luke is asking us to keep a sense of proportion, to ask ourselves what is really important in our lives.

Perhaps the passage from Isaiah is telling us that our faith should be freeing, liberating and not a burden. There is a saying that "wherever the sea is, there is the taste of salt: wherever there is truth, there is the taste of freedom." As we consider the heart of Jesus' message being "restoring of sight to the blind", we might keep that in mind. ■

SAY

Wherever there is the sea, there is the taste of salt: wherever there is truth, there is the taste of freedom.

(Quote from Thought for the Day)

LEARN

Luke had access to the Gospel of Mark when writing his own account.

The central line of the section about Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth is "restoring of sight to the blind":

This is a key idea in Luke's account, along with that of the Spirit.



DO

Take a good look around you: thank God for the gift of sight; think how your vision of faith and life might be restored – then ask for that!

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23rd January 2022

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 25th 7:30pm Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Do This In Memory

The P4 children are remembered this weekend

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 22nd McEvoy Family, Dechomet
Sat 29th Mickey Turley

Leitrim

Sat 22nd Henry and Rita O'Hare
Jackie Quail
Wed 26th Evelyn Clarke

Dromara

Sun 23rd Daniel and Annie Boyle, Maureen Cassidy,
Douglas Taylor and Peter Malone
Kathleen, John and Sarah Gordon
Tue 25th Canon Gerry McCrory
Sun 30th Dan, Mary, Liam Marmion and Deceased
Family Members
Frank, Mary and Patrick Galbraith

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

Mr Brendan McAllister, parish of Newry and
Mr Gerry McBrien, parish of Banbridge, will be
ordained deacons for the Diocese of Dromore on Sun
30th Jan at 2.00pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.
The Ordination Ceremony can be viewed on
<https://armaghparish.net/cathedral-webcam/>

A prayer for Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts,
remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered
during the Holocaust. In the horrors of that history,
when so many groups were targeted because of their
identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise
destructive prejudices that drive people apart. Forgive us
when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of
others, simply because they are different from us. In the
light of God, we see everyone as equally precious
manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage
to face the darkness. Through our prayers and actions,
help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so
that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over
hate and good will triumph over evil. Amen

Synodal Pathway

It is not feasible to organise gatherings of people to
discuss the questions and gather responses. You can
discuss the questions in your home or with others
via online meetings.

The Questions

In what ways is the Church important to you?

How can the Church welcome and include
everyone?

How can people be listened to more effectively and
encouraged to participate in decision-making within
the Church?

How can more people be encouraged to participate
in the life of the Church?

In your experience, how has the Church motivated
you to share the love of Christ and help those in
need?

How would you like to see the future of the Diocese
of Dromore?

The closing date for Responses is St Patrick's Day
2022. We would welcome responses to be sent to:

responses@dromoresynodalpathway.org

You can find more information on the new launched
Dromore Synodal Pathway Website:

dromoresynodalpathway.org. You can contact:
responses@dromoresynodalpathway.org with any
queries or through the Diocesan Office.

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish Sun 16 th	£604	£1715
Priest	£409	£1950

Congratulation to Michelle McCartan and Paul
McCabe who were married recently

Many Happy Returns to Patsy McAleenan,
(McCartans Rd) on his 90th birthday

Hughie Lavery, Dree, celebrated his centenary
on 25th December. May God continue to give him
good health.

St Vincent de Paul Finnis, Dromara would like to
thank everyone who kindly contributed to this
year's Christmas Appeal and give donations. Your
continued support and generosity is much
appreciated, and helped ensure no child went
without a present at Christmas. If anyone urgently
needs support, please contact 07738838191.