

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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13th August 2023
19th 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

Feast of Assumption

Mon 14th 7:30pm Dechomet

Tue 15th 10:00am Dromara
7:30pm Leitrim

Wed 7:30pm Leitrim

Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Recently deceased

Michael McCartan

Newcastle, formerly Ballymaginthy

ANNIVERSARIES

DECHOMET

Sat 12th Rosaleen Turley (MM)

Sat 19th Agnes Rooney

LEITRIM

Sat 12th Bernard & Ellen Cunningham

Wed 16th Cunningham & McDonald Families

Sat 19th Bernard Cunningham

DROMARA

Sun 13th McKenny Family (*Artana*)

James McAteer

Fri 18th Pat & Annie Branniff

Sun 20th Alice Lundy and Mageenan
& McCann Families

Safeguarding Contact:

P Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £607 £1,533

Priest £594 £1,143

Figures include July standing orders

We Welcome into Drumgooland Parish
James Matthew King

Many Happy Returns to Dominic McElroy
on his 90th Birthday!

Confirmation & First Communion

If you have a child that does not attend a catholic primary school and you wish your child to receive the sacraments, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible.

Dogs in the cemeteries

If you must take your dog with you, please keep it on a lead and clean up after it. There are some dogs that are allowed to roam and regrettably paths and some graves have been fouled.

Peter Morgan's Cottage

A massive **Thank You** from Massford Project Association to all who joined the Cairns Sunday Walk and donated to our Fundraiser for Slieve Croob First Responders - a very generous **£272.50** was raised on Sunday morning!!

With all our appreciation for such a valuable local cause.

Dromara SVdP

New Volunteers required urgently. To find out more about SVdP please phone the Helpline (077 3883 8191) or speak to any SVdP volunteer so as training can be arranged.

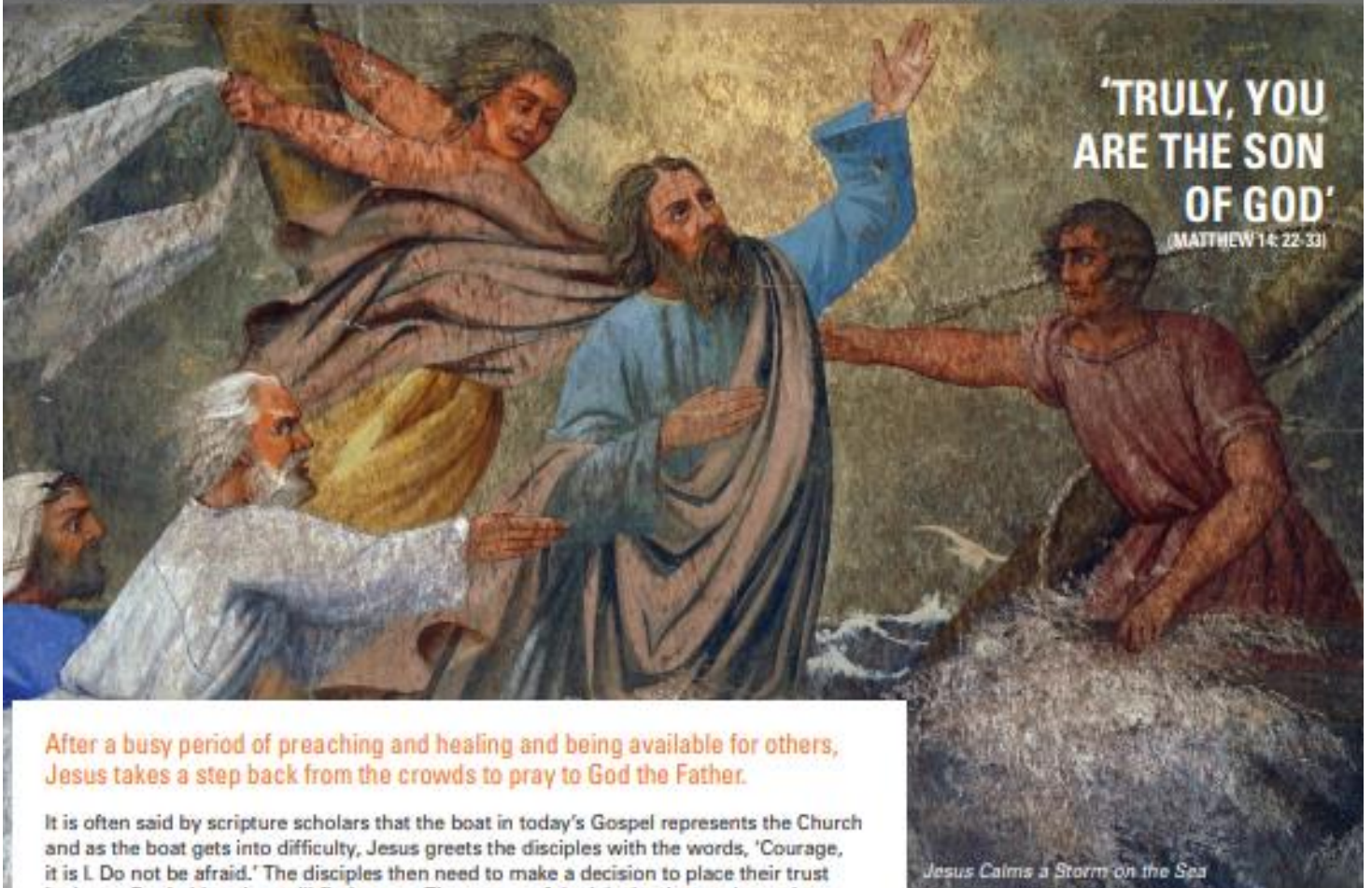
SVdP: Dromara 077 3883 8191
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Sunday Message

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 13 August 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



**'TRULY, YOU
ARE THE SON
OF GOD'**
(MATTHEW 14: 22-33)

Jesus Calms a Storm on the Sea

After a busy period of preaching and healing and being available for others, Jesus takes a step back from the crowds to pray to God the Father.

It is often said by scripture scholars that the boat in today's Gospel represents the Church and as the boat gets into difficulty, Jesus greets the disciples with the words, 'Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.' The disciples then need to make a decision to place their trust in Jesus. For in him, they will find peace. The waters of the lake begin to calm and the wind dies down. It is through the power of Jesus and his wonderful signs that the disciples begin to believe. This man is the Son of God. Peter is the person who refuses to wholeheartedly place his trust in Jesus. He thinks he's about to sink into the water despite the reassurances given to him by Jesus. But Peter and all of the Church are invited to reach out to Jesus in the stormy waters of life. We place our trust in him as a guiding and loving presence in our lives. ■

REFLECT

I remember talking to a woman a few years ago who only had a couple of months to live. It was one of the more profound moments of my priestly life and as she spoke to me, I think I found myself lost for words. There is very little to say to someone who has come to terms with their impending death. She spoke about her illness and her funeral like a poet would speak about the beauty of a partially clouded sunset sky. Her language was confident and filled with clarity as she explained to me that life had been good to her. God had been present in joyful times and darker times. She was not afraid. I went to her funeral and I wondered if I was ever in the same situation myself, how would I respond? Would I have the strength to place my trust in God amidst my fear and anxiety? I'd like to think so but there's a small part of me that's unsure.

Fear comes in many forms. For a lot of people with jobs, there is that niggling fear that the job may not last. There's the fear of not being able to support a family and make the mortgage repayments. Maybe there is fear of an upcoming result of a hospital scan or fear that a new relationship will not last.

We can be defined by our fears and they can grip tightly to the point where we are paralysed from living life. They prevent us from functioning properly and our motivation to achieve goals and complete simple tasks can abandon us.

There is a worldly wisdom spoken by Jesus today. 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' It's not just Peter who needs to trust in God's care. We all need to let go of the fears that cripple us. When we place them in God's hands, we can finally let go and live. ■

DO

Since the gospel scene today is familiar to us, perhaps you can take the time to read the story again. Try to imagine how the disciples felt amidst the stormy waters and dangerous winds. Imagine what it was like when Jesus reached out to calm their fears.

LEARN

The time would come when Jesus too would feel fear and anguish, when his hour came he was to feel the full burden of humanity's sin upon him Yet in that hour Jesus did not doubt in the power of God the Father or in his closeness.'

(Pope Benedict XVI, Pastoral Visit to San Giovanni Rotondo, June 2009)

SAY

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.'

(Psalm 46)