

# Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 19 March 2023 • Colour: Violet or Rose • Psalter Week 4



Most of us are blessed with the gift of sight. We can see each other. We can see and treasure our loved ones. We can go to the movies and watch a film. We can feast our eyes on a beautiful sunset or observe our team's goal-scoring feats. The sharp-eyed amongst us will notice how nature is beginning to reawaken after its long winter sleep.

We can see, but there is a difference between being able to see and not seeing as we should. We can see but still not fully see at all. We can have 20/20 vision and still be blind.

Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel. They had the gift of sight, they could physically see, but they couldn't see what was really important. They couldn't see who Jesus really was. They couldn't see what was before their eyes. They suffered from spiritual blindness.

They are the polar opposites of the hero of today's Gospel – the man born blind. This poor man lived in a world of darkness but wasn't spiritually blind. When he encountered Jesus, when Jesus touched him, he could see who Jesus really was. He recognised Jesus as his Messiah and Lord.

So the man who was blind was the one who could see, whereas the Pharisees who could see were the ones who were blind. They didn't recognise Jesus. They refused to see him as their Messiah and Lord. They failed to see the light.

That's the beautiful irony of today's Gospel. And that's the challenge it offers us – to spot our blind spots and see where or how we might be blind. ■

## REFLECT

**M**ost of us can see, but we all have blind spots – faults, failings – we may not be aware of or to which we may deliberately turn a blind eye. Maybe there are family members or colleagues we ignore or are not attentive to. Perhaps it's how we see those who are different from us – people who are LGBT+ or of another race, nationality, or background. Maybe our relationship with God is not as it should be.

Perhaps we have got sucked into some form of addiction that we don't want to admit. Maybe we're stuck in a rut, just drifting along, not pulling our weight at home, work, or school. Perhaps we are so closed in on ourselves that we see only our needs, and we fail to see the needs of others. Maybe all those selfies that we take, and the modern obsession with image, mean that when we look in the mirror, we see only what we don't like about ourselves and fail to see the beauty in us and the extraordinary gifts and qualities that we possess.

There are so many forms of blindness and ways we can be blind.

Lent offers an opportunity to put this right. It is a time when we are invited to become aware of our blind spots, what we might need to improve or attend to. Look for your blind spots. Look at your life's shape now – your values, priorities, relationships, and attitudes. Ask the Lord to heal you, as he healed the man born blind. And then change what needs changing so you will have perfect 20/20 spiritual vision. ■

## PRAY

To say you are Christian today is to risk being ridiculed or dismissed as deluded. We can feel like we are on trial, just like the blind man must have felt in today's Gospel. Pray for yourself and Christians everywhere for the strength to witness to the faith, whatever the cost.

## LEARN

A Christian is someone who leads others to Jesus

A Christian sees with the eyes of faith

Jesus is the light of the world

## SAY

"Lord, I thank you for the gift of faith. Help me to see as you see. Amen."

## DO

Easter is drawing close, and now is an excellent time to make an examination of conscience. What are your blind spots? What do you need to change to be a better Christian?



# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**19<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

## 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

## Easter Ceremonies

### Holy Thursday

6:00pm Leitrim 8:00pm Dromara

### Good Friday

*Stations* 3:00pm Leitrim, Dechomet & Dromara  
*Passion* 6:00pm Gargory 8:00pm Dromara

### Holy Saturday

*Easter Vigil* 9:00pm Dromara

### Easter Sunday

9:00am Gargory 10:00am Leitrim  
11:00am Dromara 12 noon Dechomet

There will be **Confessions** available during Holy Week

## Recently deceased

Hughie Lavery, Dree Hill  
Hugh McAleenan, Ribadoo Road, Backaderry

## Anniversaries

### Gargory

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Deceased Members of McAlerney  
Family (Backaderry)  
Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Patrick McAleenan

### Dromara

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Teresa Reavey (MM)  
Mary Hughes (Derry)  
Pearl McEvoy  
Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Art Gilmore  
Joe Connolly

### Leitrim

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Patrick Savage  
Patsy McKay  
Anne McCabe  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Maura Murphy

### Dechomet

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Patrick Hugh Morgan

**SVDP:** Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067

**Safeguarding Contact:** P Carville 07789917741

## Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £725 £756

**Earthquake Appeal - £3,855** has come in so far. This donation will be passed onto Trócaire by the end of March. Trócaire will give it to Caritas Internationalis which is working on the ground in Syria and Turkey.

**Congratulations** to the children of St Michael's, St Mary's and St Matthew's who have celebrated their First Confessions in Lent.

### **Confirmations (all at 6pm)**

St Matthew's Tues 28<sup>th</sup> March  
St Michael's Wed 29<sup>th</sup> March  
St Mary's Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish Emily Claire Burns and Christy Patrick McDonnell

### **Spring Events at Peter Morgan's Cottage**

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Mar from 7:30pm - Traditional Music & Social Evening.** Come along for a bowl of Stew and the Craic!

### **SMA Dromantine Lenten Reflection Day**

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 9:30am-5:00pm** - this day provides time and space to reflect and pray on themes of Lent and to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. Cost (including lunch) £35/€40 **Led by Fr Des Corrigan SMA**  
Tel: (028) 30821964  
Email: [admin@dromantineconference.com](mailto:admin@dromantineconference.com)

**Easter Bingo** - please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group' on Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 3pm for a great afternoon of bingo in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2:30pm. £100 JACKPOT must go and great Easter Raffle so please come along and show your support for the school.

**St Joseph's Young Priests Society, Ballynahinch.** One-Day Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Jun.** Coach transfer and evening meal If you would be interested contact Aine Savage 074 45595027. Geraldine McCullough 075 35585352.

**ACCORD** Couples seeking marriage preparation should contact the Accord Newry Centre at (028) 30263577; [newry@accordni.com](mailto:newry@accordni.com) or visit our website at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com). Couples are advised to complete their marriage preparation 3 to 6 months in advance of their wedding.