

Some Pharisees and scribes have come from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They have heard about him, and want to see why he is so popular. But they are shocked by what they discover.

They notice that some of Jesus's disciples are eating without having washed their hands. This goes against the tradition of the Pharisees and some other Jews who always wash their hands before eating so as not to be unclean.

The Pharisees and scribes are appalled by this behaviour and wonder about this man Jesus. How can he be a religious leader and a prophet if his followers do not even respect the tradition of the elders?

But Jesus's response to them is devastating. He calls them hypocrites. He says that they are more interested in keeping external rules and regulations than in living God's commandments. Their brand of religion is more about outward show than worship of God. They pay lip service to God while their hearts are far from him.

It is a danger we can face too – that our religion will be more about external appearances than really living out the Gospel. We need to make sure there is no gap between what we profess in church and how we live outside of church.

BLIND SPOT

During Woodrow Wilson's time as president of the United States (1913-1921), he was often described as the great moralist. It was also how he saw himself. As a devout Christian and son of a Presbyterian minister, Wilson fervently believed in the primacy of morality in politics. After the devastation of the first World War, he outlined his grand vision for a peaceful new world order, where peoples and nations would have the right to shape their own destinies, and where colonial conquest and oppression would be no more. He proposed setting up a League of Nations to ensure that war and conflict would never happen again.

The League would settle international disputes and protect the interests of smaller, weaker countries. It was a noble idea.

But there was a major problem – Wilson's own moral blind spots. He ignored the plight of the small and weak in his own country. He did nothing to tackle systemic racism or women's demand for the right to vote. He clamped down on free speech in wartime. A native of the Deep South, he was supportive of the Ku Klux Klan and was actively racist in his attitude to African Americans. Wilson's moral idealism did not apply to them or to women's rights, and so history has judged him guilty of hypocrisy.

There was nothing unique about Woodrow Wilson. Human beings have always been prone to hypocrisy. As have people in the Church. The clerical abuse scandals of the last 30 years shocked Catholics to the core and left them wondering how so many priests and religious could have behaved in such a depraved and hypocritical manner.

The Church's credibility has been deeply damaged, because the gap between what those Church people professed and what they did (or didn't do) was obvious for all to see. There was a clear disconnection between their words and their actions.

Whatever our rank in the Church, as Christians, our words and deeds must spring from a life lived in Jesus. There must be a clear consistency between what we say and what we do. ■

series ends



Today's readings

Deut 4:1-2,6-8

Js 1:17-18,21-22,27

Mk 7:1-8,14-15,22-23

GOD'S WORD TODAY

The temptation to religious legalism and control which Jesus challenges in his own religion has happened in our Church and can still happen today. Yet it is worse today, for it is done in Jesus' name. Rules can be put before people; legalism before compassion. It is far easier for us to follow external ritual practices than to change our hearts, mind-sets, attitudes and behaviour. Today's Gospel reading demands much honest reflection by everyone in the Church.

29 August 2021 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

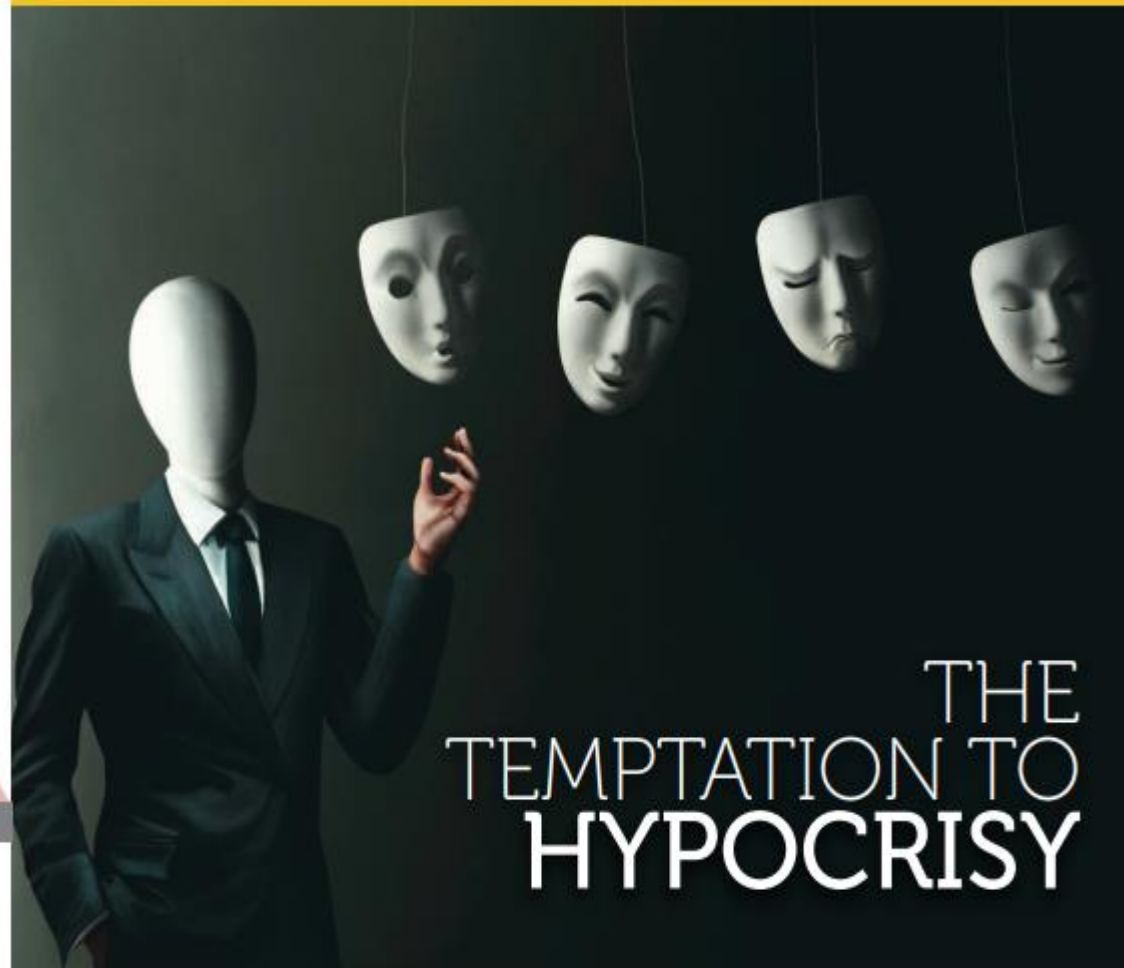
Psalter Week 4

Stu(space)

SERIES: POINTERS ON THE JOURNEY

Season colour: GREEN

In this series, Gerard Moloney, C.Ss.R reflects on the Gospel in the context of today.



THE TEMPTATION TO HYPOCRISY

Whatever our rank in the Church, as Christians, our words and deeds must spring from a life lived in Jesus.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 29th August 2021

The Prophets

Jonah

The story of Jonah in the belly of the whale is known but the theme is God's mercy, His willingness to forgive. God's desire is that people are restored to right relationship and stay that way. Jonah firstly tries to run away, then he does preach. Yet he is disappointed and angry that God does not seek revenge. The invite for us is to be merciful and see God who wants us to receive his mercy. God does not enjoy the idea of a lost soul.

Malachi

The name is literally God's Messenger. God has strong love for his people. This special relationship brings special responsibilities to his people, He wants a pure offering. There is reference to God as a Father, no room for any practice that worships an idol. Yet in all ways he is faithful and has been slow to reject his people despite their behaviour.

Daniel

This book dates from around 165 BC. Daniel is not the author, but the hero. The people are facing persecution by their Greek ruler, he wants them to abandon their Jewish ways and customs. Daniel and others are presented as people who were true to God during the Babylonian exile and persecution. They chose to be faithful to God rather than follow the local customs. The important theme is that God was with them and saved them, if people remain true to God, despite their persecution, God will save them.

Collections

Dromara	£176
Drumgooland	£517

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 28 th	Timothy Doyle
Sat 4 th	Mary Rooney (Dechomet)

Leitrim

Sat 28 th	Shane, Barney and Winnie Owens
Wed 1 st	Winnifred Savage
Sat 4 th	Eugene O'Hare and Richard Duggan John O'Hare, Dennis Mallon and Annie Grant

Gargory

Dromara

Sun 29 th	Daniel Hughes (Derry) Eileen and Peter O'Hare and Deceased Family Members Molly, Tom and Pdraig McMullan and Moirra Grogan Theresa McNamee (Killeen) (MM)
Sun 5 th	Anne Mullan

Congratulations to all our young people who have completed their Pope John Paul II Award. This year's Award Ceremony will be Parish based. A date will be arranged for later in Sept or early Oct. I encourage all who registered for the Award in Sept 2019 to complete their Record Card and Reflection and forward to the Youth Director at: 39-41 The Mall, Newry, BT34 1AT or email: youthdirector@dromorediocese.org no later than Mon 5th Sept.

Gargory Altar Rota - Sept Roseleen & Anne

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

Church Attendance

It has been good to see that people are freer to attend and know that space is available. There were more seats available in all the churches over the weekend.

Please continue to wear a face covering, there are masks at the back of each church if you forget yours.

Thank you to all who sanitise their hands as they enter the church and clean the seats afterwards.

It is clear that we will continue to face the danger of this illness but do what we can to prevent it spreading. Every action counts, your are for each other is life protecting.

We welcome Isabel Fitzpatrick into Drumgooland Parish

Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and need a helping hand?

Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

