

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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2nd Sunday in ordinary time

19th January 2025

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

Recently deceased



ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 18th James Quail MM
Sat 25th Mary McAnulty MM
Henry & Rita O'Hare
Carol Cowan
Evelyn Clarke

Dechomet

Sat 25th McEvoy Family, Dechomet

Dromara

Sun 26th Kathleen, John & Sarah Gordon
Margaret Mary Reavey

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.
Many thanks.

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738838191 / Drumg 07825419067

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Stephen Sherry
07301246329 / safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£676	£1,261
Priest	£822	£1,732

*Figures include Dec standing orders
Thank you for your continued contributions*

Do This in Memory **25th / 26th Jan**

The children are asked to bring a small bottle of water, which will be blessed

Services of Light **Preparation for Confirmation**

Mon 27th Jan 7pm Dechomet
Tues 28th Jan 7pm Dromara
Wed 29th Jan 7pm Gargory

We welcome into Dromara Parish
Cuan Gerard Kelly

Please join the '*Friends of St Michael's Finnis Parents Group*' on **Sun 26th Jan at 3pm** for a great afternoon of **Bingo** in the Parish Hall.

£100 JACKPOT MUST GO!

Doors open at 2:30pm.

Good fun, refreshments and a great raffle so please come along and show your support for the school.

Dromantine Workshops

Workshops and retreats will be offered by Fr Hugh Lagan SMA in 2025. Fr Lagan is a Priest with SMA and a Chartered Clinical Psychologist.

Sat 8th Feb 9am - 4:30pm

Living your strengths: discover your unique character strengths and reach your true potential
£43 / €50

Sat 8th Mar 9am - 4:30pm

A radical welcome: intercultural living & the future of religious life
£43 / €50

Reservations:

Tel: 028 3082 1964

Email: admin@dromantineconference.com

Sunday Message

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 19 January 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

IN PRAISE OF STRONG WOMEN

JN 2:1-11



There can be few things more embarrassing than being at a wedding and the drink runs out. Everybody is having a great time, the band is playing, the celebration is in full swing, and then, horror of horrors, the bar runs dry. Imagine the anger and embarrassment of the wedding couple when the hotel manager tells them the awful news. It wouldn't be long before it would be splashed on social media.

We can identify with the Cana couple's predicament. We all know that life isn't perfect and that we need the help of others when difficulties come our way. In today's Gospel, Mary sees the problem and asks Jesus to help. He seems reluctant to intervene, but she is not put off. Mary knows her son won't let the wedding couple down, so she instructs the servants to do whatever he tells them.

In turning the water into wine Jesus works a miracle. He gives a sign, not because he wants to show how fantastic he is, but in order to meet someone's need. It reveals something of his identity. Although he is ready to argue that his time has not yet come, when called upon to help, he cannot say no. He comes to people in their need, as he always does. ■

SAY

"Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life. You have the message of eternal life."

DO

As this New Year begins, think of something you could do to change another person's life for the better.

LEARN

Miracles happen when enough people have the faith to believe that change is possible

Mary instructs the servants: "Do whatever he tells you." That is the meaning of discipleship - to do whatever Jesus asks of us

PRAY

Jesus' relationship with people transforms them. It changes their lives. Pray for yourself and your parish community that you will have a deeper relationship with the Lord.

REFLECT

I come from a family of strong women. My maternal grandmother lived with us when I was growing up, and she had a tremendous influence on me. She had strong traditional values and always stressed the importance of family. She led the family prayers, and encouraged us to pray every day. She had a deep store of wisdom, which she sought to pass on to us, and a natural ability as a storyteller. Her diaries provide a wonderful insight into the Ireland of yesteryear. My grandmother taught me so much right up until she died the day after my seventeenth birthday.

Her daughter - my mother - was similar. Deep old age, she remained the heartbeat of our family. I was astonished by her selflessness, how time and again she spent herself for others. I marvelled at her wisdom and common sense, at her ability to grow and change, how her views and outlook matured over the years. I was struck by her unwavering faith, and by her capacity to forgive, to overcome even the deepest disappointments. She was a strong woman, just like her mother before her.

The story of the wedding at Cana has many levels of meaning. It's about the abundance

of God's gifts and God's extraordinary generosity. The water jars ended up brimming over with as much as 800 litres of wine (more than would be needed even at the most rumbustious Irish wedding!).

It's about transformation, being made new. The water is changed into wine. Our challenge also is to be made new.

It's about Jesus being revealed for who he really is - the Son of God, the Messiah, the prophet who can work wonderful signs.

And it's about a strong woman who offers advice to Jesus' followers about how to live if they are to be saved. That strong woman is Mary, the mother of Jesus. She knows the wine is running out, she can see that the reception is heading for disaster for the bride and groom, and she decides to take action. She knows what to do. And even though Jesus protests that now is not the time, she refuses to take 'no' for an answer. She instructs the stewards, "Do whatever he tells you." And, like a good son, Jesus obeys his mother. He tells the stewards what to do - and the results are astonishing. The new wine is so good, the guests wonder why it wasn't served first.

"Do whatever he tells you" is what Mary tells the stewards at the wedding. It's the command she gives us too: "Do whatever he tells you." In other words, listen to Jesus, heed his word, follow his example. Do whatever he tells us, and our lives will be transformed. Do it, and we shall live.

What is Jesus asking of us this new year? Perhaps to take our lead from Mary and never to hesitate to turn to Jesus when in need. Perhaps to reach out in solidarity to those in material or financial difficulty, those who have no food, no wine. Perhaps he is asking us to look at our values and attitudes to see if they are in line with the Gospel. How might we need to be transformed, made new, in 2025? Perhaps it means never hesitating to offer a gentle word of support or comfort to someone in distress. Perhaps it means having the courage, like Mary, to speak out when we know something is wrong, whenever we encounter injustice.

"Do whatever he tells you." That's how that strong woman Mary lived. She lived by God's word. She spoke God's word. We are called to speak and live God's word, too. ■