

# Sunday Message

29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year C • 16 October 2022 • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

### NEVER GIVE UP

LUKE 18:1-8



The opening line of today's Gospel makes it clear that this parable is about persevering in prayer. The parable involves a conflict between two stock characters.

The widow stands for the most vulnerable kind of people in Israelite society. With no husband to ensure their rights, widows were at the mercy of others, including even male family members. We don't know what this woman's case is, except that she wants justice against her enemies. The rather self-important judge, who neither fears God nor listens to public opinion, isn't going to allow a defenceless woman like her to get the better of him. At least, that's what he thinks. For a time, he ignores all her demands for justice.

At this point, Jesus includes some humour that gets lost in most of our translations. As is often the case in his parables, Luke lets us into a character's inner world. Here he shows us the judge's innermost thoughts. Unbending he may be, he realises he will have to yield to this defenceless woman. Why? Our translations usually say something like "because she will persist in coming and worry me to death." The original word in the parable can be translated as something close to "she will slap me in the face" or even "she will give me an uppercut." The judge fears that this powerless woman's exasperation will know no bounds, and her persistence will finally spill over into violence. So a judge who doesn't fear God or care about public opinion is brought to his knees by the most defenceless of women, a poor widow!

Jesus applies the parable to how God deals with persistent prayer. God will reply to those who cry day and night, even though it may look as if their prayer is unanswered. The riddle of unanswered prayer is one of the great tests of faith and something the Bible does not ignore. When the Israelites cry out under the burdens of slavery, God "hears" but does not immediately answer. The Book of Job is built around the problem of a good man who suddenly loses everything he has, to whom God seems deaf until God and Job finally become locked in a dramatic argument.

In the last line of today's Gospel, something of a reversal takes place. The main character of the parable was an earthly judge and not a very good one at that. Another judge is coming, the Son of Man, who will be even more searching than the most stringent earthly judge. ■

### SAY

Lord, help me to never lose heart. Help me to trust in you always. Amen.

### PRAY

Ask God to help you keep on praying and trusting in him, even when God seems deaf to your prayer.

### DO

Look at our society and world. What injustices exist that need to be addressed? Join or donate to a group that works for justice and peace.



### LEARN

The Christian knows the importance of prayer.

Prayer and justice go hand in hand. If we are people who pray, then our prayer will compel us to be concerned for justice and to work for it.

Action for justice is a constitutive part of preaching the Gospel.

### REFLECT

The Gurkhas couldn't believe their luck. For years Nepalese veterans who served in the British army before 1997 had been campaigning for the right to settle in the UK but without success. And then the actress Joanna Lumley took up their cause. Her father had served with the Gurkhas, and she felt they were being treated unjustly. She began a campaign on their behalf, which attracted huge publicity and put tremendous

pressure on the authorities. In the end, the British government had to give in. Ministers were afraid the actress would give them a metaphorical black eye!

There are many Joanna Lumleys throughout our world today, women and men who work for justice. For more than 30 years, widows and mothers have marched in Buenos Aires seeking to discover the fate of sons and husbands who disappeared during the military rule of the 1980s. Closer to home, there are the

women like Marie Collins who suffered sexual abuse and persisted until their voices were heard.

To follow Jesus means to work for justice. Indeed, the church teaches that action for justice is a constitutive part of preaching the Gospel. It is not enough for us to tell the poor, the abused, the unjustly treated that "we will pray for them." We must also do what we can to address the injustice. And, like the persistent widow, we mustn't give up. ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**16<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**29<sup>th</sup> 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 7:30pm Dechomet  
**Tues** 9:00am Dromara  
**Wed** 7:30pm Leitrim  
**Fri** 7:30pm Dromara

**Recently deceased** Sean Duggan, Castlewellan

**Anniversaries** (2023 Anniversary Book now available)

## Dechomet

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** Michelle Doyle  
Matt and Kathleen Ward and Deceased  
Family Members  
**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>** Peter Joseph Kelly (Derryneil) and  
Deceased Members of Kelly Family

## Leitrim

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** Eddie Murphy  
Patsy, Jeannette and James Savage  
Marc McAnulty  
**Wed 19<sup>th</sup>** Willie McCartan (Ballymaginthy)  
John Smith  
**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>** Pat and Mary Teresa Morgan

## Dromara

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup>** Peter, Catherine, James and  
Peter McKenny (Drinn)  
John, Sarah and Peter Rogan and  
Marian Hampston  
**Fri 21<sup>st</sup>** Hugh Pat O'Hare (MM)  
Bernard McCann

**Masses for the recently deceased** in our parishes will be celebrated on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Nov Dechomet, Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Nov Leitrim, Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Nov Finnis, all at 7:30pm. The names of those who have died in our parishes, or were buried in our parishes, will be called out, and a family member will carry up a candle in their memory. There will be candles available for those who wish to remember other loved ones who have died.

## Collections

	<b>Dromara</b>	<b>Drumgooland</b>
Parish	£320	£747
Priest	£553	£1064
Family Care	£195	£385

**Southern Area Hospice Collection** will be taken up after mass at the church doors this weekend. If anyone wishes to make a donation over the next few weeks, please put it in an envelope marked 'Hospice' and place it in the basket with the ordinary envelopes.

**Altar Servers** Thank you to all who have volunteered. The rotas are now available. If anyone else is still interested please let me know. If a server is not available, please ask one of your friends to cover for you.

**St Michael's New Cemetery - Notice to Contractors**  
Graveyard extension including provision of footpaths and guard rails/fencing. Expressions of tender interest to be sent to Bradley at Gilligan Consulting Engineers, before Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, via email to [bradley@gilligan.co.uk](mailto:bradley@gilligan.co.uk) The parish does not bind itself to accept the lowest, or any, tender received.

**St Michael's PS, Finnis, Halloween Bingo** Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct at 3pm. Doors open at 2.30pm. Money raised will go towards school funds and developing a sensory area in the school. Hope to see you there!

## Permanent Diaconate

Four men from the Diocese of Dromore recently embarked on the first year of academic study for the Permanent Diaconate.

They are:

Sean Farrell - Tullylish Parish,  
Patrick Gallagher- Moyraverty Parish,  
Daniel McAnulty - Newry Parish  
Pearse Thornbury - St Peter's Parish, Lurgan  
We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they continue on their spiritual journey.

## SVP Helplines

Dromara 077 3883 8191

Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

**Safeguarding** P Carville 077 8991 7741