

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Third Sunday of Advent

17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### 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 8<sup>th</sup>** 7:30pm Dromara



### Recently Deceased

*Lelia Cooper (nee Rooney), England  
Formerly Castlewella Rd, Dromara*

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### DECHOMET

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup>** Patrick Joseph Murphy MM  
Willie Doyle  
William James Doyle  
**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** John Greeran  
Daniel, Mary Rose & Martin Matheson  
& Jack Murphy

#### LEITRIM

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup>** Patsy Bannon  
Barney & Agnes Morgan  
Cecilia, Catherine & Pat Murphy  
Patrick Smyth  
Peter Bannon  
**Wed 20<sup>th</sup>** Joe McCrickard  
**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>** Brendan Cunningham  
**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** Kathleen & Annie Cunningham  
Mary Burns

#### DROMARA

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup>** Canon Gerry McCrory  
Gerard & Mary McGrillen  
Rose & Owen O'Hare & Deceased  
Members of O'Hare Family  
**Tue 19<sup>th</sup>** Hugh & Marian Kelly  
**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>** Christopher O'Hare  
**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** Mary Rice (Dree)

SVP Drom 077 3883 8191 / Drum 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding Contact Pat Carville 077 8991 7741

### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish	£1,234	£1,551
Priest	£590	£1,440
Trócaire	£684	£1,768

*Figures include Nov standing orders.  
Thank you to all who put donations in the St Anthony  
boxes. All donations are passed on to Trócaire. The  
above amount is the amount that has come in since May.  
Thank you for your continued contributions.*

**First Communion preparation** continues  
on **16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** at all masses

### Confession for Christmas

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup>** Dechomet 8-8:30pm  
**Wed 20<sup>th</sup>** Leitrim 6:30-7:15pm  
**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>** Dromara 6:30-7:15pm  
**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>** Gargory 10-10:30am

### Christmas Masses

The Masses on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 24<sup>th</sup>  
will be as usual

#### Christmas Eve

7pm Dechomet 7pm Gargory  
8:15pm Leitrim 9:30pm Dromara

#### Christmas Day

9am Gargory 10am Leitrim  
11am Dromara

**Everyone is Welcome**

*We Welcome into Drumgooland Parish  
Erin Maeve Clancy*

### Trócaire School Volunteers

**for School Talks Programme for Lent 2024**

*Are you a retired teacher or someone who has  
experience presenting to groups of school children?*

For more information call Casey Schell on  
028 90808033 / email: [casey.schell@trocaire.org](mailto:casey.schell@trocaire.org)

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes for Young People

*18 to 25 year olds*

**6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024**

*Tuesday to Sunday*

If interested and want to know more  
please forward your name and  
mobile number by email to

[youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org)

Information will be forwarded to all.

This will be a great opportunity to experience  
Lourdes and grow in faith through a shared  
experience with like minded people.

# Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year B • 17 December 2023 • Colour: Rose or Violet • Psalter Week 3

## SECOND FIDDLE

JN 1:6-8.19-28

You're so vain, declares Carly Simon in her famous song of that title. She doesn't say who it's about, but were she singing it today, there would be no shortage of candidates. We live in the age of celebrity, of the selfie and the social media influencer.

The cult of celebrity is huge. Reality TV thrives on people's desperate desire to become famous. It has made celebrities of people we would never have heard of otherwise.

Some years ago the owner of the cosmetics company, L'Oreal died. Liliane Bettencourt was one of the richest people on earth, made rich in part by one of the most successful advertising campaigns ever launched. L'Oreal use celebrities to front their campaigns using the slogan we are all familiar with: "Because you're worth it." Use their product because you're worth it. Spoil yourself because you're worth it. You deserve the best because you're worth it.

It's no surprise the slogan has had such a big impact, because it's part of human nature to focus on ourselves, to think only or primarily about ourselves. In many ways, it's the dominant mindset of our modern culture. It's why so many people endure all kinds of trials on shows like 'I'm a celebrity...' in order to become more famous or resurrect flagging careers.

Taking part in 'I'm a celebrity...' wouldn't have bothered the star of today's Gospel, John the Baptist. John lived in the desert. He dressed in camel skin and survived on locusts and wild honey. Those maggots and creepy crawlies the so-called celebrities squirm over would have been a normal breakfast for him. He looked the type that even Conor McGregor would be loathe to encounter in a well-lit alleyway.

And yet, people flocked to him from all over. They were impressed by his message of repentance. They got baptised by him.

It must have been tempting for John to feel like a celebrity, a kind of messiah. All these people were coming from far and wide to see him, hear him, be baptised by him, this wild, desert prophet. The temptation to be vain, to think, 'It's all about me' must have been tremendous - but he resists. John is at pains to push the focus away from himself. He doesn't want to be the centre of attention. He knows he is only a messenger. He says, "Someone is coming after me who is greater than I am, and I'm not fit to undo the strap of his sandals." Here is his chance to become a celebrity, but John points away from himself, towards Jesus. He is saying, "It's not about me - it's about Jesus. Don't focus on me. Focus on Jesus." John knows he is of secondary importance and that Jesus, the one he witnesses to, is of primary importance.

So it must be with us also. As Christians, our focus must always be on Jesus. ■



### DO

Think about how you witness to Jesus. Are you happy to let others know that you are his follower?

### PRAY

For many people in financial distress, the lead up to Christmas is especially difficult. Pray for those who are finding it hard to hold onto hope this Advent.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to be an effective witness to you. Amen."

### LEARN

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. The Latin word gaudete means "rejoice" and since the Mass begins with the words of Saint Paul - "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice" (Ph 4:4) - this Sunday came to be known as Gaudete Sunday. On this Sunday the liturgical colour is rose, symbolising the anticipated joy of Christmas breaking into the more penitential Advent Season.

### REFLECT

Today's Gospel offers two challenges. The first is about humility. When you think about it, we have every reason to be humble. We did not bring ourselves into existence. Every good we have is a gift, either directly from God, or indirectly by means of those who came before us. We cannot restore our youth (no matter how much botox or plastic surgery we use). We can't get rid of osteoporosis if it bites into us. We can't make ourselves or our lives look perfect. We cannot prevent our own deaths. We cannot raise ourselves from the dead

and give ourselves the gift of eternal life. We can't stop our loved ones dying.

Humility is recognising our smallness before God. We can only be humble and only form right relationships with others when we cease making all our actions revolve around ourselves.

Second, what John the Baptist is telling us, and what Advent tells us, is that, as Christians, our primary focus must be on Jesus. As Christians, it can never be all about me - it must be all about Jesus, following Jesus, pointing to Jesus. Yes,

we must love ourselves as people made in God's image and likeness. Yes, we must have a healthy self-regard, and take proper care of ourselves and our loved ones, but self-obsession and self-fixation can never be part of it. Like the Baptist, everything we do must point towards Jesus. The kind of people we are, the lives we lead, the example we give, all must point towards Jesus.

That's our challenge this season and always. How effectively do you point others towards Jesus? For us Christians, it must be all about Jesus. Because he's worth it. ■