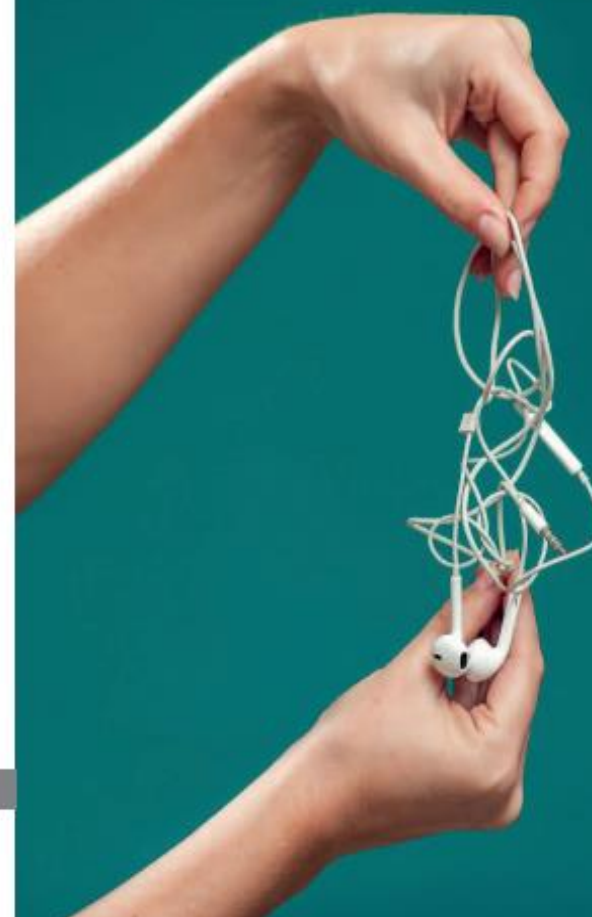


Stu() Space

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.



TRAVELLING LIGHT

Today's Gospel points to something fundamental about the Church: it is most successful when it travels light and discards any baggage which gets in the way of its mission.

In today's Gospel Jesus begins to share his mission with his twelve closest followers. He puts them to work, sending them out "two by two" armed with his authority to confront the power of evil. He instructs them to travel light. This means no bread, because food will be provided by others' hospitality. It means no (sleeping) bag, as lodging will be provided. It means no money, for they will be looked after. They can bring a staff, sandals and a single tunic because they will be continually on the move.

This text reminds us that the earliest Christian missionaries travelled light and set themselves apart from the wandering preachers of other religions, who brought lots of baggage with them.

Mark is saying something important as he records these instructions of Jesus. Jesus is on an urgent missionary journey. The staff and the sandals are the symbols of that journey and so these are appropriate for those who share in his mission. Any other baggage, especially that which might weigh them down and slow their progress, is not permitted.

Jesus also instructs them about where they are to stay. The issue here is the integrity of the Gospel. If they arrive in a place and then move from house to house seeking better lodging, nicer food or more friendly company, this would be a counter-witness to the Gospel. If they encounter lack of hospitality they are to move on. This is exactly what Jesus did when he was rejected by the people of his own village of Nazareth. Jesus even tells them to shake the dust of such places from their feet. Jews returning to the Holy Land would perform this ritual as they left pagan territory so as not to import "uncleanness" with them. It symbolised the godlessness of the pagan land and the holiness of Israel.

So the Twelve set out and their mission is successful. Mark adds some important details. Their preaching is so that "all should repent," which is the key missionary goal of Jesus. The Twelve also heal the sick, something Jesus has done many times before.

Ironically, the mission of the Twelve is more successful than Jesus's own mission in Nazareth. Yet the Twelve are missionary only to the extent that they are with Jesus, recognise that his authority has been given to them, and travel light. At all times they remain his followers.

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH

We know the value of travelling light. Low fares airlines like Ryanair encourage passengers to travel light. There is a penalty for excess luggage. Having one carry-on bag is not only less expensive, it also speeds up your journey. Airport security is easier to deal with. Travelling light is the wise thing to do.

Today's Gospel points to something fundamental about the Church: it is most successful when it travels light and discards any baggage which gets in the way of its mission.

Since Jesus's time there have been periods when the Church has travelled light and has been truly prophetic in proclaiming the Gospel. Think of missionaries who brought the bare necessities with them when going on long journeys to remote places. Think of all those Christians, lay and religious, who have chosen to live simple, frugal lives in order to witness to the Gospel.

There have been other times when, weighed down with wealth, power and a preoccupation with status, the Church has not travelled light and has failed the Gospel. Pope Francis is constantly calling on Catholics to live simple lives in order to be a poor Church for the poor.

We can only hope that the crisis our Church has been going through in recent years will lead it to discard anything that gets in the way of Jesus's mission, so that the Gospel may be proclaimed anew with prophetic courage and integrity. ■



Today's readings

Amos 7:12-15

Eph 1:3-14

Mk 6:7-13

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Today's Gospel points to something fundamental about the Church: it is the new family of Jesus which has been entrusted by him to preach the Gospel. It is only successful when it travels light and discards any baggage which gets in the way of its mission.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergencies: 079 69403762 Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradgooland.org

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11th July 2021

Recently Deceased

Tony Clarke
Sarah Lennon (nee O'Hare)
Charlie Keown

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 10th Bernard, Margaret and Patrick Doyle
Mon 12th Margaret and Gerard Quail

Dromara

Sun 11th Kevin Doyle
Mickey McGrillen
Fri 16th John O'Hare (Dree) and Deceased
Family Members
Bernard and Mary Rice
Sun 18th Laurence Colgan
Maureen McKey

Leitrim

Wed 14th Tom Fegan
Sun 17th Brian Donnelly

Leitrim Cleaners

Fri 9th – Kathleen's Team

The Prophets

The people are known as Hebrews, Israelites or Jews.

Hebrew normally would refer to the people in Egypt and during the Exodus and settlement in Canaan.

Israelites – the Kingdom of Israel is founded
Jews – the Southern Kingdom is in the land of Judah. They are the faithful few.
Invasion was part of life, from local tribes or major powers.

Egypt was a major power until conquered by the Greeks and later the Romans.

Assyria was the power when the Northern Kingdom fell, its capital was Nineveh.

The Babylonians conquered Assyria but later fell to the Persians, who allowed the Exiles to return to Jerusalem.

Abraham could be seen as the supreme prophet.
Moses spoke to the Hebrew people and the Pharaoh on behalf of God.
Elijah and Elisha were God's prophets.

Over the coming weeks I will give brief insight into the prophetic books in the Old Testament. They were pre-exile, during the Exile and after the people returned.

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

Face coverings are mandatory at all church gatherings, mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings. Please help to protect yourself and others by wearing one.

Collections 4 th July	Parish	Priest
Dromara	£552	£498
Drumgooland	£1324	£987

We welcome into Dromara Parish Ruairi Campbell and Caitlyn Fitzpatrick and into Drumgooland Parish Saoirse Rice

Holiday

I will be away Sun 18th Jul after mass until Sat 7th Aug

Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and need a helping hand?
Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427