

# Stou(ace

SERIES: GOD IN THE EVERYDAY

Season colour **GREEN**

In this series, **Jim Deeds** finds evidence of the divine in the ordinary and extraordinary events of every day.

In the 1960s, unable to find work at home, my dad moved to London, in search of a job. He went confident he would succeed. This was where the streets were paved with gold, after all.

He arrived in the London of the swinging 60s. The world was waking up to the city's relevance in culture, clothing and music. Carnaby Street was the centre of this awakening. We still see iconic footage of London back then with its red phone boxes and mini-skirted young girls dancing to the Beatles or the Kinks.

The London he arrived in was also one whose local pubs carried signs declaring, "No blacks, no dogs, no Irish." The land of opportunity turned out to be one of struggle for my dad. His accent set him apart from the locals, many of whom seemed to resent his presence. Of course, many others didn't resent him at all, and he talks of meeting good folk there.

Unlike Belfast, though, his perceived religious outlook and political stance were never questioned. Catholics, Protestants and unbelievers were all 'Paddy' to the locals. And while it was a struggle, he did get work. He earned enough to eke out a living and enough to remain in his bedsit in the (mainly Irish) area of Kilburn. He was an economic migrant, as we call such people now. And it was tough being an economic migrant.

When I was growing up, he told me about his experiences there, some funny stories and stories of good times. For example, he had to change how he said 'eight' in his thick Belfast accent to a more London 'ite' to be understood and buy the right ticket on a bus.

One afternoon a few years ago, I was in my parents' house when my uncle Danny came to visit my dad. It was a sunny day, and I was in the back garden playing my guitar. The two men joined me. At some point, I began playing Kris Kristofferson's song, 'Sunday Morning Coming Down.' It triggered memories for my dad and Danny, who had also spent time as an economic migrant in London. They began speaking of the loneliness they felt there. It seemed that loneliness was one of the defining characteristics of their stay for both of them, and they felt it most of all on a Sunday. On Sundays back then, London came to a standstill. There was little to do

and little to distract them from life's difficulties. Outside of a small group of fellow Irish, they were alone and far from home.

Kristofferson's song captured the bleakness of their situation perfectly. "On the Sunday morning sidewalks, wishing Lord that I was stoned. Coz there's something in a Sunday, makes a body feel alone," he sings.

Our afternoon in the garden was far removed from the experiences of their youth. But those experiences were deeply ingrained in both of them. Loneliness cuts deep. Some 50 years later, this still held significance for them.

## JESUS' EXPERIENCE

I love London. I have family there. I love English people. And the kinds of exclusion I'm describing here can and do happen all over the world. Of course, we don't have to look to London 50 years ago or to those displaced from their homelands to find loneliness. It exists in our villages, towns and cities.

Jesus knew what it meant to be lonely. His trial and subsequent torture and execution were times of desperate loneliness for him, as all but a few deserted him. That Jesus understands our loneliness can be a source of comfort to us in our lonely times. I am minded to reflect how, from the cross, Jesus recognised the loneliness he saw in those few who accompanied him all the way. Seeing his mother and the beloved disciple John there, devastated and alone, what did he do? He put them together. Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother. He connected them. He knew the remedy to loneliness is company, love, friendship.

If we are to follow the way of Jesus, we must connect with people and hold them in love, prayer and friendship. As parish communities, how would it be if we started a ministry to the lonely? Perhaps a phone call or visit would mean the world to someone who has no other contact with friends or family. Were we to do so, we might hear the words of Jesus ringing in our ears: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." ■

## GOD'S WORD TODAY



### Today's readings

Jer 31:7-9

Heb 5:1-6

Mk 10:46-52

Bartimaeus is an example of the kind of discipleship that Jesus is looking for. He believes in Jesus and will not be silenced. It is not easy to be a public committed, practicing Catholic in our country today. There are those in our secular and increasingly intolerant society who would gladly silence us. That is why like Bartimaeus we need to cry out all the more: "Son of David, have mercy on us!"



# THE PAIN OF LONELINESS

Jesus reached out to those who were lonely and on the margins. He reaches out to us in our loneliness also.

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dromara

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:00am Harry McKay (MM)  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Michael Rice  
Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Bridget, Peter and Frank McEvoy

#### Dechomet

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Eileen Fitzpatrick  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Peter Joseph Kelly (Derryneil) and Deceased Family Members

#### Leitrim

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> John Smyth and Deceased Family Members

**November Dead Lists** are available at the back of the churches

### Masses for recently deceased in November

All masses will be at 7:30pm

Dechomet Mon 8<sup>th</sup>  
Leitrim Wed 10<sup>th</sup>  
Dromara Fri 12<sup>th</sup>

This year there will be no personal invite to the families of the recently deceased. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome or they may wish to view it online. If you are aware of anyone who has had a loved one die in the parishes over the past year or buried in the parish, please let them know about the masses.

### Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

### Collections

Dromara £410  
Drumgooland £806

### St Vincent de Paul Finnis

#### Dromara Christmas Appeal 2021

Due to ongoing COVID restrictions we have setup an Amazon Wish List for anyone who wishes to purchase a Christmas present for a local child to receive this Christmas.

Any support, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated and will go directly to support local families in need of support during these difficult times.

The Wish List can be found at:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1RE T2PL08GHHT?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1RE T2PL08GHHT?ref_=wl_share)

If you have any difficulties, or if you would prefer to make a donation towards heating oil/ food hampers, please contact Mary on 07738838191.

Many thanks for your continued support  
St Vincent de Paul Finnis, Dromara

### God's Word - Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Oct

*Let me see again*

The wonderful thing about Bartimaeus is his faith in Jesus. He believes in Jesus' power to heal him. He has an absolute total trust in Jesus. The ironic thing is that even though he is blind, Bartimaeus is able to see Jesus for who he really is. He has a deeper faith than the disciples and others who have two good eyes. The one apparently blind "sees" more than those claiming sight.

### Weekend masses

Sat 11:00am Dromara  
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

### Masses for All Saints and All Souls

There is no obligation to attend mass at the moment. In order to create an opportunity for those who wish to attend mass over the two days there will be a mass in each church

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 9:00am Leitrim and  
7:30pm Dechomet  
Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 9:00am Dromara and  
7:30pm Gargory

### First Confessions for P5's

St Matthews Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 7:30pm Leitrim  
St Mary's Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 7:30pm Leitrim  
St Michael's Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 7:30pm Dromara

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish Aoife Rice

**Congratulations to** Colm Kelly and Kerri Greene who were married recently

**Leitrim Cleaners** – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Kathleen's Team