



WHAT FILLS YOUR HEART?

(LUKE 6:39-45)

A person's character is revealed in the way they live and treat other people.

We may detect in Jesus' remarks a rebuke to the Pharisee teachers and leaders of his day, but they are also a warning to the Christian community for whom Luke is writing, and therefore to ourselves. We have seen how disciples of Jesus are called to be "children of the Most High" and to treat others as God would. The more aware a disciple is of their own faults and shortcomings, the less likely they should be to judge other people.

The comparison with a tree and its fruit is particularly telling. The fruit is evidence of the state of health of the plant which bears it. So it is with the disciple: how they behave shows the kind of person they really are. ■

LEARN

The word 'hypocrite' comes from the Greek verb 'to answer':

It is used in connection with the theatre, to describe an actor;

Greek actors wore masks during the performance, hence the English meaning of a hypocrite being someone playing a part, rather than being themselves.

DO

Look at plants growing as you walk along. Ask yourself what kind of fruit you are bearing; thank the Lord if it is good and ask the Lord's help if it needs improving.



SAY

Open our hearts, Lord,
to accept the words of
your Son.

(cf Acts 16:14)

REFLECT

It is easy and tempting sometimes to reduce being a believer, a disciple of Jesus, to doing things, to the way we live on the outside. Jesus is telling us today that how we are outwardly is an indication of what we are truly like inwardly. Our fruit should be the result of our relationship with God, not something we put on for show because we think that this is how we should be or act. The term 'hypocrite' comes from the Greek theatre and has the sense of an actor, one who is playing a part, wearing a mask and reciting lines they have already learned beforehand. Jesus is encouraging his audience to be true to their authentic selves and not to claim other levels of knowledge or wisdom. Not the easiest of challenges, by any means.

Perhaps we might remember that at the root of our Christian faith is the idea of Covenant. This is the relationship into which God entered freely with human beings, first with all people through Noah, then in a particular way with one individual and his descendants, Abraham. This relationship was established in a new way in the person and the self-giving of Jesus, which we renew each time we celebrate the Eucharist together. Thus, our Christian life is not primarily a matter of *doing* certain things or living in a certain way. It is more about the person who we are, and this manifests itself in our outward life and behaviour.

The Gospel reading echoes the warning from Ecclesiasticus about what a person says reflecting what is actually in their heart. Nowadays, we appreciate better the meaning of Freudian slips of the tongue and what our sense of humour tells us about ourselves. However, it is only by admitting our faults and prejudices that we can do something about them. So when we say to ourselves, "I shouldn't be thinking like that," we are better to ask where that thought came from in the first place. It is only by bringing them out into the open that we can get rid of things which we have kept hidden and we will be much the better for it. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 27th February 2022

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

Ash Wed 7:00am Leitrim 10.00am Gargory
2nd Mar 7:00pm Dromara 8:00pm Dechomet

Ashes will be distributed at all masses

Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 26th Willie Rooney

Dromara

Sun 27th Mae and Dan Flynn

Fri 4th Francis Rogan; Neilly and Nan Burns

Sun 6th Paschal Hawthorne (MM)

Leitrim

Sat 5th Barney O'Hare

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

St Matthew's Magheramayo Sponsored Walk

Sun 13th Mar 10am Leitrim Fit Trial. Please come along and support us with our fund-raising efforts. Catch up with old and new family and friends while getting a few laps in. Children can dress up if they wish, spot prizes on the day. Tea/coffee tuck shop will be open. Sponsor sheets will be sent home with children, or you can make an online donation via our PayPal email:

friendsofmagheramayo@gmail.com Everyone Welcome!

Diocesan Summer Camps

Good news our Diocese can once again offer Summer Camps at the YMCA, Newcastle! Lots of activities, fun and great opportunity to meet new people. Note the dates:

11th to 15th July – Year 8 – 12 year olds

18th to 22nd July – Year 9 - 13 year olds

25th to 29th July - Year 10 & 11 - 14/15 year olds

Our camps are a Mon-Fri residential experience.

More info will be sent with application form – places are limited, book your places ASAP.

Email: dromoreyd@btconnect.com for an application form, or phone (028) 30833898 for one to be posted to you.

First Confessions

St Mary's, Dechomet - P5's

Tues 1st Mar 7:30pm, Dechomet

St Matthew's, Magheramayo - P4's

Tues 8th Mar 7:30pm, Leitrim

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£148	£567

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish Darragh Fleming

Congratulations to Emmanuel Ward and Rebecca Lea who were married recently.

Dromara Readers - Rota now available

Leitrim Chapel - Opening Rotas in the sacristy

Leitrim Cleaners Fri 4th – Kathleen's Team

Gargory Altar Society March- Roseleen & Anne

Dromore Synodal Pathway

See website: dromoresynodalpathway.org

The online questionnaire can be accessed via <https://forms.gle/w3z6QaEUT3vLL5HA9>

Completed responses can be emailed to: responses@dromoresynodalpathway.org

Southern Area Hospice (SAH)

Big Bucket Collection Need Every Helping Hand!

SAH are calling on the local community to get behind their 'Big Bucket Collection' which takes place in towns and villages throughout the Southern Trust Area on **Fri 25th Mar**. Volunteers are needed in various locations throughout these areas: *Camlough, Crossmaglen, Kilkeel, Annalong, Newry, Rathfriland, Rostrevor and Warrenpoint.*

Could you and your family, friends or work colleagues come together to volunteer at one of their collections? The Hospice are also calling for shops and businesses to get involved by taking a Hospice bucket to display in their store or workplace on the week leading up to the collection to help raise funds. If you would like to take part, we would love to hear from you! To give a helping hand, please:

Contact Rosie on (028) 3026 7711

Email: vs@southernareahospiceservices.org

Or you can sign up online at:

www.southernareahospiceservices.org/big-bucket-volunteers.