

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

WHO WILL BE SAVED?

(LUKE 13:22-30)



Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee, viewed from Mount Arbel, Northern Israel

Luke reminds us at the beginning of our Gospel extract today that Jesus is on his journey towards Jerusalem and to his destiny, which he discussed with Moses and Elijah on the mountain in Galilee just before he set out. The theme of prophetic preaching returns: Jesus emphasises to his hearers the importance of living out the Word of God in their – and therefore our – daily lives.

A major vision of the later prophets was the gathering of the scattered people of God in Zion, in Jerusalem. The question about who will be admitted to this community is put in the familiar Christian terminology of 'being saved'. Jesus makes it clear to his Jewish audience that simply being a member of the people will not guarantee being allowed through the door and the imagery recalls the story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids and the importance of being ready.

Salvation in the Bible does not mean confirming the present order: in the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel we find Mary's song, the *Magnificat*, which presents God's saving action as the reversing of human structures. This idea is captured perfectly in Jesus' pithy comment that "there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last."

We also have another strong teaching from Luke, that God's concern for human beings is universal: the ingathering of the scattered people of Israel can also be understood as the coming to the Lord of people from over the world, and they may well take priority over those who imagine that they have a claim to be included. ■

SAY

O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim God all you peoples!

(Psalm 117:1)

LEARN

For the prophets, salvation meant the reversal of the accepted human structures.

Luke's Gospel message is especially concerned with poor and marginalised people.

This Third Gospel emphasises that God's message is not confined to any one particular people or group.

The best motive for living out the values of Jesus in the Gospel is grateful appreciation of what God has done for us in reaching out to us in love and respect.

DO

Read the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55): reflect on what salvation might mean in our society.

REFLECT

Are you saved? According to our Gospel account of the preaching of Jesus, the only honest answer might well be, 'I don't know: I believe that I am redeemed; whether I am saved is another matter.'

The Gospel warns us not to take salvation for granted. In today's parable about people knocking on the master's door and appealing to be let in, we are warned not to assume that we will be admitted to the Lord's presence automatically:

we have to "strive" to enter through the narrow door, that is, to take our Christian responsibilities seriously. Those at the door remind the master that "we ate and drank in your company": in Christian terms, this suggests that they are basing their claim on having attended the Eucharist, but it seems that this may not be sufficient.

Some of us can remember parish missions, where the congregation were vigorously warned about the coming

judgment and of the need to repent and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Most people realise that conversion brought about by fear seldom lasts. The best foundation for changing our lives is to appreciate that God's reason for reaching out to us is love.

We are all redeemed: we are now asked to live out God's love in our daily lives. In that, we will find salvation. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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21st August 2022 21st 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

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 20th Marcella Doyle
Mon 22nd Agnes Rooney
Sat 27th Timothy Doyle

Leitrim

Sat 20th Bernard Cunningham
John Doyle and Deceased Family Members
Wed 24th Thomas Fowler (MM)

Dromara

Sun 21st Elizabeth McCoubry (Derry)
Alice Lundy and Deceased Members of McCann and Mageean Families
Fri 26th Kathleen, Barney and Pat McNeill and Deceased Family Members
Seamus and Betty McEvoy
Sun 28th Daniel Hughes (Derry)
Dan Hughes (Finnis) and Relatives
Molly and Tom McMullan,
Maira McMullan-Grogan and
Padraig McMullan

Gargory

Sun 28th Mick McGreevy

Whist restarting in St Michael's Hall, Finnis on
Tues 6th Sept at 8:00pm. Adm £5. Please support.

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£259	£583

We welcome into Dromara Parish Eva McNeill

Altar Servers

Anyone who wishes to serve mass will be welcome to do so from September onwards. There will be a volunteer form to be completed and training will be given so safeguarding practices will be followed. Any server trained previously is welcome to return.

Parish Council Meetings

Drumgooland Mon 5th Sept at 8pm
Dromara Mon 12th Sept at 8pm

Do This in Memory

The preparation for First Holy Communion programme will hopefully be able to return in full this year. The material will be sent home in early September. This year the children will be once more able to take an active part at mass.

Parish History available online

The Diocese of Dromore - Past and Present compiled and published by the Dromore Diocesan Historical Society 2004

<http://www.lisburn.com/books/dromore-diocese/diocese-1.html>

History of Dromara Parish 1985 by Fr B Treanor
<http://www.raymondscountydownwebsite.com>
click ENTER and Choose Dromara on left hand side,

also see RosDavies website <http://rosdavies.com>

Book of Illustrations and Poems

The family of the late Michael McCullough - musician/singer/artist/poet - have produced a book of his illustrations and poems, many of which relate to his time spent in the Dromara countryside. The book costs £8 and proceeds will be forwarded to a Cancer charity by his family. To obtain a copy contact (028) 97532479, or any Committee Member of Peter Morgan's Cottage.