

# Sunday Message

28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year C • 9 October 2022 • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



### THANKS A MILLION!

LUKE 17:11-19

Christians are a Eucharistic people, which means we are thankful people, and today's Gospel account of the healing of ten lepers is about the necessity of giving thanks.

In the time of Jesus, skin diseases frightened people to death. They were seen as highly contagious, and the Bible has detailed rules for dealing with them. It sees them not just as a medical condition but as one with religious implications. People believed that such diseases were God's punishment for sin. That is why the Bible gives a priest the responsibility for assessing the disease, as we see in today's Gospel.

People with skin diseases were obliged to live away from their families and community. The Book of Leviticus says: "The person who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be dishevelled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the village."

And so, victims suffered in two ways: from the physical effects of the disease but, even worse, from the heartbreak of being cut off from their families and ostracised by the community.

The lepers in today's Gospel are probably living together in an isolated settlement. But when Jesus passes nearby, instead of keeping their distance as they are required to do, they pluck up the courage to ask him to take pity on them. Jesus tells them to go to the priests as the law requires. On the way, they realise they are cured.

They are thrilled, over the moon. Their lives have been restored to them. Their isolation is lifted. They can go back to their families. No wonder the first thing they do is rush home, completely neglecting to thank Jesus. It wasn't bad manners – simply that they couldn't wait to meet their loved ones. The extraordinary thing is that one of them had the presence of mind to thank Jesus in person.

In restoring the ten to health, Jesus overcomes 'dis-ease' – the distancing of suffering people from the community where they should be loved and cherished – every bit as much as he overcomes physical illness. It's a lesson for how we should treat the sick and those on the margins. ■

### DO

Tell a loved one how much he or she means to you.

Acknowledgement; Appreciation; Action – think of concrete ways in which you can practise all three.

### SAY

I thank you, Lord, for all you have given me. Help me to have a grateful heart.

### PRAY

Jesus tells the Samaritan that his faith has made him well. Ask the Lord to increase your faith.

### LEARN

Christians are people with grateful hearts.

Christians never discriminate against others based on race, creed, sexuality, or background.

Jesus is the one who heals.

## REFLECT

Today's Gospel is about the need to show gratitude. When I think about gratitude, three words come to mind that begin with the letter A.

The first is acknowledgement. It's important to say thanks. We need to verbally and personally express thanks as the Samaritan does in the Gospel. Very often, we can forget to do it. Thankfulness is actively acknowledging what God and others do for us and articulating it, making sure to let them know.

The second A is appreciation, having an attitude of gratitude. In the Gospel, the lepers were given their health back and with it their families and their freedom. It must have given them a new appreciation of life and all that had been returned to them. Now they appreciated far more what they might have taken for granted before their illness – the presence of loved ones, the gift of health, the freedom to do whatever they wanted.

In our busyness, complacency, or lassitude, we can take what we have for granted. Thankfulness is appreciating – deeply appreciating – all we have been given.

The third A is action. To show thanks by doing good. To show appreciation for our blessings by doing good. Conscious of their good fortune, many people contribute to charity or aid agencies. They want to give something back.

Having an attitude of gratitude leads us beyond ourselves to others, to do good, to action for justice, to care for the earth and those in need. Conscious of what we have been given, we share our blessings, gifts, talents. Thankfulness is love in action.

And this is what we do every time we celebrate Mass. Eucharist comes from the Greek word *Eucharistia*, which means to give thanks. The Mass is literally a celebration of thanks. We acknowledge everything for which we should be grateful. We deepen our appreciation of all that God has done for us and given to us, which leads to action. We go from church to world in love and service. ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**9<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**28<sup>th</sup> 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

## Anniversaries (2023 Anniversary Book now available)

### Dechomet

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup>** Bernard McElroy  
**Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** Michelle Doyle; Matt and Kathleen Ward  
and Deceased Family Members

### Leitrim

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup>** Anthony Pat McEvoy  
Patsy and Cissie McMullan  
**Wed 12<sup>th</sup>** Rory Savage  
**Fri 15<sup>th</sup>** Eddie Murphy  
Patsy, Jeannette and James Savage

### Dromara

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup>** Patrick and Catherine Rooney and  
Deceased Family Relatives  
**Fri 14<sup>th</sup>** Alice Paton (MM)  
**Sun 16<sup>th</sup>** Peter, Catherine, James and  
Peter McKenny (Drinn)

**Masses for the recently deceased** in our parishes will be celebrated on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Nov Dechomet, Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Nov Leitrim, Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Nov Finnis, all at 7:30pm. The names of those who have died in our parishes, or were buried in our parishes, will be called out, and a family member will carry up a candle in their memory. There will be candles available for those who wish to remember other loved ones who have died.

**Pope John Paul II Award** Participants in the process of completing their Award are invited to join their peers at the YMCA, Newcastle, Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct, for a residential experience. To secure a place phone (028) 30833898 or email [youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org). Cost £30 pp. We need final number for Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**SVP Helplines** Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067  
**Children/Adult Safeguarding** P Carville 07789917741

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£300	£838
Priest	£563	£869

**Southern Area Hospice Collection** 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Oct

**We welcome** into Dromara Parish Oscar Lea

There are no dates set for Confirmation or First Communion. When I discover the policy for Confirmation, I will settle the dates.

## St Michael's New Cemetery - Notice to Contractors

Graveyard extension including provision of footpaths and guard rails/fencing. Expressions of tender interest to be sent to Bradley at Gilligan Consulting Engineers, before Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, via email to [bradley@gilligan.co.uk](mailto:bradley@gilligan.co.uk). The parish does not bind itself to accept the lowest, or any, tender received.

**Dromara GAC Big Breakfast** In the build up to Dromara GACs Junior Championship Final there will be a Big Breakfast in St Michael's Hall, Finnis, on Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 11:30am-1:00pm. Breakfast Baps, Fry's, Pancake Stacks. Adults £5, Children £3, Max Family £20. Everyone welcome.

## Catholic Chaplaincy QUB - Golden Jubilee Mass

Annual Dedication of Studies Mass (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the landmark site at the heart of the Queen's campus). Bishop Noel Treanor will celebrate this special Mass on Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Oct at 8pm in the Chaplaincy's Corpus Christi Chapel, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast. The Chaplaincy Choir, Canticle, will provide music and song, refreshments will be served afterwards. Current students and staff are especially welcome, as are alumni, friends and all who support the Chaplaincy's important work with students.

**St Michael's PS, Finnis, Halloween Bingo** Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct at 3pm. Doors open at 2.30pm. Money raised will go towards school funds and developing a sensory area in the school. Hope to see you there!

**Mary's Meals** thanks all those who supported the Slieve Croob Sunday Saunter. Through your participation and generous donations, you have helped raise over £620 which means 39 children will receive a meal at school for the next year.