

Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 11 December 2022 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 3

WALK THE WALK

(MT 11:2-11)



A depiction by Martinez Montanes of St John the Baptist in prison

John the Baptist had given testimony to Jesus at the river Jordan. He had declared that Christ was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Now, from prison, John sends his disciples to ask: "Are you the one who is to come, or do we have to wait for someone else?" The Baptist seems less sure about Jesus at this stage. Why the apparent hesitancy?

Different reasons have been suggested. One is that John asked the question not for his own sake but for that of his disciples. Or it could have been that John was puzzled because his own early message had been one of impending judgement: the axe was already laid to the root of the tree, the chaff was being separated from the wheat, the divine fire of cleansing judgement had already begun to burn – and this heavy emphasis on judgement was not coming through in the teaching of Jesus.

In his reply to John's disciples, Jesus says, in so many words: Don't report to John what I'm saying. Instead, tell him what I'm doing. Jesus' actions (restoring sight to the blind, life to the dead, preaching the good news to the poor) declared that he was indeed the Messiah, the Anointed One of God, whose coming John had announced.

The message would have made sense to John the Baptist because John had come in the spirit of the prophet Isaiah to prepare a way for the Lord. The reply Jesus gave to the Baptist was Isaiah's own description of what would happen when the Messiah came: the blind would see, the lame would walk, lepers would be cleansed, the dead would be raised to life, and the good news would be proclaimed to the poor. ■

REFLECT

Hope seems in short supply at the end of this year. We're worried about the future. What kind of world are we leaving to our children? Despite all our advances in science and technology, despite how sophisticated we have become, despite the progress we have made in promoting human rights, our world seems as broken and unstable as in the past. War, inflation, racism, climate change, and political uncertainty are on the rise. The season of Advent cautions against despair. It assures us we are not alone. It urges us forward, knowing that, with God on our side, we need not be afraid. Hope will overcome.

Writer Roy Scranton has given his book about climate change a gloomy title. He's called it *We're Doomed, Now What?* But even though his analysis of the future sounds depressing, he refuses to let go of hope. He offers a good definition of hope. He links it with faith.

"For me, hope is always connected to faith because you don't hope that you'll go to work in the morning," Scranton said in an interview. "I don't hope I'll change my daughter's diaper, I just do those things. You hope for things that you don't have any control over. I do have a faith in human resilience and the human ability to adapt to difficult situations and still find ways to lead meaningful and rich lives."

Hope trusts in God's promises while working to build God's kingdom by putting the Sermon on the Mount into practice. Hope is about not looking away in the face of adversity but facing it head-on in the knowledge that God is with us.

That's what the season of Advent is all about. And that's what we need to focus on in the frantic build-up to Christmas day. What we celebrate this season is far more important than decorations, presents, and parties. This isn't a mere secular feast for us Christians, a handy excuse to eat and drink and max out our credit cards. This is the feast of hope, the feast of God-with-us, and it offers the timeless template for how we must approach all life's challenges. Even when things seem at their bleakest, hope still beckons us forward. ■

LEARN

The Christian is one who follows the example of Jesus Christ.

Today is Gaudete Sunday, meaning 'rejoice' from the first word of the entrance antiphon. We rejoice because our salvation is close at hand.

PRAY

To say we are people of faith is one thing; to show it is another. Ask the Lord for the strength to live the faith you profess every day.

DO

As you go about your Christmas shopping this week, be aware of those who are homeless or forced to beg. Extend the hand of friendship to them.

SAY

Say slowly and prayerfully the response to today's psalm: "Come, Lord, and save us."

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

11th December 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

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

Masses for Christmas 2022

	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
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Gargory	7:00pm	9:00am
Dromara	7:00pm	11:00am
Dechomet	8:15pm	-
Leitrim	9:30pm	10:00am

Recently deceased

Olivia Fitzpatrick, formerly Gransha, Dromara
John Savage, Dunmore

Anniversaries (2023 Anniversary Book now available)

Leitrim

Sat 10th Pat Charles McAleenan
Eamonn McAnulty
Arthur James Doyle
Eileen and John Behan

Wed 14th Anne McAlarney
Joe McCrickard
Rose and Owen O'Hare

Sat 17th Patsy Bannon
Barney and Agnes Morgan
Patrick Smyth
Mary Theresa, Catherine,
Pat and Cecilia Murphy

Gargory

Sun 11th Betty McGreevy (MM)

Dromara

Sun 11th Davy McKay and David McKay Snr
Sun 18th Canon Gerry McCrory
Mary and Gerard McGrillen

Dechomet

Sat 17th William James Doyle

Safeguarding contact: P Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£ 278	£634

Confessions

Fri 16th Dromara 7-7:20pm
Sat 17th Leitrim 7-7:20pm
Mon 19th Dechomet 6:45-7:15pm
Wed 21st Leitrim 6:45-7:15pm
Fri 23rd Dromara 6:45-7:15pm
Sat 24th Gargory 10-10:30am

I will use the confession boxes. The wearing of face covering will be the choice of the person coming to confession

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Doireann McAleenan,
Cillian Doyle, and
Micah Laverty

Congratulations to James Fitzpatrick and
Victoria Reid who were married recently

Choir Rehearsals for Christmas Masses

Dechomet Chapel after 6pm Sat masses

Leitrim Chapel Tues 13th 7-8pm

Dromara Chapel Tues 13th 6pm

Dromara SVDP will hold their annual Christmas Appeal this weekend. Thank you to all who support them throughout the year.

Drumgooland SVDP Christmas Appeal is taking place over the next couple of weeks.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so directly to our bank account Society of SVDP St Patrick's Drumgooland Account No. 07440031, Sort Code 93-83-51. A blue envelope is also available at the back the chapel if you wish to take one for a cash donation and return it and place in the collection plate next weekend. All donations will be used in this locality and your support and help is greatly appreciated. God bless and happy Christmas.

SVP - If you are struggling with food/heating bills, etc., please contact us:
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067
Dromara 077 3883 8191