

# Sunday Message

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

THE WORD

Year C • 25 September 2022 • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

## TO SEE LAZARUS AT THE GATE

LUKE 16:19-31



In Tacloban city in the Philippines stands a mansion, cut off from the public, that once belonged to the family of Imelda Marcos, wife of dictator President Ferdinand Marcos.

After Marcos was overthrown in 1986, the new government opened the house up as a tourist attraction. I visited it soon afterwards. Surrounded by high walls, it was lavishly decorated, with fine furnishings, shimmering swimming pool and every imaginable luxury.

Several things about it were unsettling. First, it was located on a city street surrounded by ordinary houses and people struggling to survive. The contrast was stark.

Second was the pristine hill that stood behind the house. It had once been full of ramshackle dwellings, but Imelda's family had them bulldozed so they wouldn't spoil the view from the mansion. They didn't want to see the shacks of the poor. Out of sight, out of mind.

It wasn't quite like that with the rich man and Lazarus. After all, Imelda's family physically removed the poor from their line of vision. But the rich man did nothing like that. He didn't have Lazarus physically removed from his gate so he wouldn't have to see him. He didn't inflict the sores on Lazarus' body. He didn't harm Lazarus in any way. Yet the rich man is condemned.

Then the reason becomes clear. The rich man is condemned not for what he did but for what he didn't do. He ignored the poor man at his gate. He didn't think Lazarus was his responsibility. He saw his suffering and did nothing about it. He was guilty not of the sin of commission but omission.

Every time we pray the Confiteor at Mass, we ask forgiveness for "what I have done and what I have failed to do." We ask forgiveness for our sins of omission as well as commission. We must always be aware of both. ■

### DO

Join a group or organisation that campaigns for justice.

Look at your parish, your neighbourhood. Who is Lazarus at the gate you need to be aware of?

### SAY

Lord, give me a heart like yours. Never let me be blind to those who suffer or are oppressed. Amen.

### LEARN

The Christian is concerned for the welfare of others.

There is no such thing as a 'private' Christian.

Concern for justice is an integral part of the Gospel.

We are called to be a poor church for the poor.

### REFLECT

Today's Gospel challenges us on three levels – as church, society, and individuals.

First, as church. Days after his election, Pope Francis spoke about the church he longed to see. "How I would like a poor church for the poor!" he said. Time and again, Francis has said he wants a commitment to the poor to be at the heart of the church's role in the world. A church that goes out to the margins where the voiceless are and is not interested in wealth or prestige but only in service. A church always aware of Lazarus at the gate, a church committed to the work of justice.

Second, it challenges us to think about the society we live in. This is what Pope Francis says about what he calls the culture of comfort in the West:

"The culture of comfort, which makes us think only of ourselves, makes us insensitive to the cries of other people, makes us live in soap bubbles which, however lovely, are insubstantial; they offer a fleeting and empty illusion which results in indifference to others; indeed, it even leads to the globalisation of indifference. In this globalised world, we have fallen into globalised indifference. We have become used to the suffering of others: it doesn't affect me; it doesn't concern me; it's none of my business!"

Words to think about as so many struggle to cope with rampant inflation and the gap between the wealthiest one percent and the world's poor grows larger than at any time in history.

Third, it challenges our behaviour as individuals. Do I see a need and ignore it? A problem and step over it? Do I see injustice and shrug my shoulders? Heartbreak and desperation and do nothing to alleviate it? Do I see in my suffering brothers and sisters the face of Christ?

Today's Gospel is a cry against indifference, a challenge to shake off whatever complacency, blindness or smugness has taken over our lives. Because the world is crowded with Lazaruses and we will be judged not just on what we do but on what we fail to do. ■

### PRAY

So many people are suffering or in need. Pray for them.

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**25<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**26<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

**Receased deceased** Philomena Duggan, Bann Road

## Anniversary Masses

### Leitrim

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup>** Patsy Madine  
Mary and James Malone  
**Sat 1<sup>st</sup>** Teresa and Stanley Wright and Deceased  
Members of O'Hare Family  
Patricia Quail  
Thomas and Rose Armstrong and  
Anne Murray  
Bernard and Joey McAnulty

### Dromara

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup>** Wesley Hunter

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup>** Harry McKay  
Seamus McEvoy

### Gargory

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>** Patrick and Kathleen McAtee

## Leitrim Cleaners

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Bridie's Team

| Collections | Dromara | Drumgooland |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Parish      | £365    | £529        |

**We welcome** into Dromara Parish Leo Stephen Austin

## Altar Servers

Thank you to all who have volunteered so far, there is still plenty of time to volunteer. Over the next month or more, everyone will get an opportunity and rotas will be drawn up where necessary

## Do This In Memory

The First Communion preparation programme will begin on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Please return the reply slips to the school before the end of this month

## Dromara Parish Council

New Members are needed. If you are interested in giving a few years' service, please let me know

## Drumgooland Parish Council

Meeting Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 8:00pm

## Slieve Croob Sunday Saunter

In aid of Mary's Meals, Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, registration from 2:00pm, walk 2:30pm. Family walk. Donation only

## Dromara GAC - Save The Date

Dromara GAC Gala Ball (Black Tie)  
Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, Millbrook Lodge Hotel, for 16 years and over. Tickets £50.  
Entertainment by *The Untouchables*.  
More details to follow about ticket sales.