

## THE STORY OF THE HYMN

**H**ail Queen of Heaven' draws on two Latin texts that have had a long life in the Catholic liturgy. They are the *Salve Regina*, or 'Hail Holy Queen', and the *Ave Maris Stella* ('Hail, Star of the Sea').

They were used to compose this hymn by Fr John Lingard. Born in 1771 in Winchester, his mother belonged to an old Catholic family that had held onto the faith despite persecution. His father converted when he married. As a young man, Lingard showed promise of a vocation to the priesthood. Since there were no seminaries in England, Bishop Challoner, best known as the editor of the English Catholic Bible, arranged for him to go to the English College in Douai. The French Revolution broke out before he had finished his course, and John was forced to return to England. A temporary seminary was founded in England and there John was ordained priest. The temporary seminary soon became permanent and moved to Ushaw in Durham. Fr Lingard proved to be an excellent historian. He wrote a four-volume history of England. The Catholic Church enjoyed a new lease of life, thanks to the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. Dr Lingard died in 1851 at the age of 81 and is buried at Ushaw.

His hymn was published in 1834 and was included in a manual of prayers that Lingard drew up in 1840. It was set to the music of a North of England folk melody by Henri Frederick Hemy shortly before Lingard's death. Lingard is also remembered for a Christmas carol, 'The Snow Lay on the Ground'.

## THE MEANING OF THE HYMN

**T**here are three verses in the hymn, but sometimes a concluding fourth verse is added. It begins by greeting Mary as 'the ocean star':

"Hail, Queen of Heaven, the ocean Star,  
guide of the wanderer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care,  
save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer, pray for me."

It became a popular title during the Middle Ages. Mary's star was identified as the pole star, the easiest to locate and often used by mariners to plot their course. It is used twice in this verse. We are the wanderers who need Mary's guidance to reach our destination. St Bernard saw a Christian's life task as sailing safely by following Mary's guidance: "If the winds of temptation arise, if you are driven upon the rocks of tribulation look to the star, call on Mary. If you are tossed upon the waves of pride, of ambition, of envy, of rivalry, look to the star, call on Mary. Should anger, or avarice, or fleshly desire violently assail the frail vessel of your soul, look at the star, call upon Mary."

The second verse invokes Our Lady as the sinless one, in comparison to whom we are all sinners in need of pardon from her son:

"O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
we sinners make our prayers through thee.  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea  
pray for the sinner, pray for me."

The third verse takes up a note from the 'Hail, Holy Queen'. The earth, a valley of tears, is our temporary dwelling while our real home is in heaven:

"Sojourners in this vale of tears,  
O thee, blest Advocate, we cry,  
pity our sorrows, calm our fears,  
and soothe with hope our misery.  
Refuge in grief, Star of the sea,  
pray for the mourner, pray for me." ■



## Today's readings

Job 7:1-4, 6-7  
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23  
Mk 1:29-39

Today's gospel describes a typical Sabbath in the life of Jesus. It would have begun with the morning synagogue service (described last week). The most important part of this was a lengthy reading from the Law and a sermon or explanation. People would have gone to the synagogue fasting, and after the long service, they returned home to eat the main meal of the day. There is a problem: Jesus was due to eat in Peter's house, but Peter's mother-in-law is unwell, and this has upset the preparations for the meal. It provides nevertheless the occasion for Jesus' first healing miracle. The Sabbath ended at sundown. People were then free from the Sabbath law that forbade them to carry heavy loads, so they are free to bring him their sick. A small detail opens an important window into Jesus' personal life: he rises early to go to a quiet place. In Capernaum this might have been the shore of the lake, where he can be alone to pray.

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

7 February 2021 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year II  
Psalter Week 1

# Stu( )space

SERIES: SING ONCE, PRAY TWICE

Season colour: GREEN

Hymns are an important part of Catholic worship. We will look at some of our familiar hymns. Musical versions are available on YouTube.



**H**'ail Queen of Heaven' is one of the best-known Catholic hymns. Although only composed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it can also claim to be one of the oldest English Catholic hymns. During the penal times, Catholic churches in Britain and Ireland had very little music, and the little there was, was usually in Latin.

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207      Emergency Tel: 079 69403762  
Email: [dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org](mailto:dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org)      Website: [www.dromaradgooland.org](http://www.dromaradgooland.org)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Recently deceased** Fr Paddy Reedy, Kimmage, Dublin; Eileen Kelly (nee McKay), Ballykilbeg, formerly Dree and Nancy McAleenan, Lurgan

### Fr Paddy Reedy

He was a member of the Holy Spirit Congregation, but helped out in our diocese, serving in Rathfriland, Dromara and Banbridge. Paddy died on Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, aged 89. His funeral will be on Fri 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am and be viewed at:

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/holy-spirit-parish-church-kimmage>

He was a truly lovely man with a very gentle nature. May he rest in peace.

### Please remember these anniversaries in your prayers

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Teresa McAvoy Mick Murphy Patsy McGlue
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Peter McEvoy Martin Drake Daniel and Liam Marmion and
Deceased	Family Members Doreen Gribben
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Tessie Matheson (MM) Martin Matheson Fr Frank Lyons Rita Murray
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Marie King (Gransha) Sean Lundy

### New Email Address:

[dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org](mailto:dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org)

The AOL address will be replaced by the one above. There have been a few difficulties with the old address. The new address will be in use from this weekend.

**We welcome** into Dromara Parish Jack Hamilton and into Drumgooland Parish Patrick McCartan

### Envelopes/collections

Money banked since the churches closed for mass:

Parish £1,180

Priest £676

Trócaire £286.50

Shrines £128

Thank you for your generosity. This is a time for essential travel only so I do not expect people to leave money in. All money is lodged in the appropriate parish account. I will be in Dromara car park on Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am-11am, if anyone wishes to leave in envelopes.

### Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.                      Amen*

**Masses:** Sat 6:00pm      Sun 9:00am

This week there will be no mass streamed Mon 8<sup>th</sup> to Fri 12<sup>th</sup>. The weekend masses will be streamed as usual.

If I am needed for any emergency sick calls or in the event of death please ring 07969403762 and I will return to the parish.

### Leitrim Chapel

The work on re-polishing the floors has begun. The two side aisles have been cleaned, cement, etc. removed of the tiles. The people doing the work have asked that the church remain closed so that the floor is dry and able to be polished next week. Please accept my apologies to those who wish to enter for private prayer. Hopefully when the work is complete you will see the difference.

### St Michael's Church, Finnis

BT have installed an internet connection to the church. Hopefully this will improve the quality of the connection for streaming when the churches re-open for mass.

### Anniversaries

Please book anniversaries by telephone, email or by a note left in Leitrim parochial house. Please mark 'anniversary' on the envelope in order that it is opened immediately.

