

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## Weekend masses

**Sat** 6:00pm Dechomet  
7:30pm Leitrim

**Sun** 9:00am Gargory  
11:00am Dromara

## NO Weekday Masses this week

I will be away on holiday 6<sup>th</sup> Jul until 26<sup>th</sup> Jul.  
For emergency sick calls or deaths please try  
Fr Brian Brown on 074 9673 1619  
or 028 97562410

*Anniversaries can be booked by email, leaving a message (and phone number) on the phone or a note through the letterbox whilst I am away.*

**Drumgooland Parish Council**  
Meeting Mon 31<sup>st</sup> July at 8pm

## ANNIVERSARIES

### DECHOMET

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** Gerard & Margaret Quail

### LEITRIM

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** Brian Donnelly

### DROMARA

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup>** Maureen McKey

**SVDP:** Dromara 077 38838191  
Drumgooland 078 25419067

**Safeguarding Contact:**  
P Carville 07789917741

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£565	£875
Priest	£625	£1,227

*Figures include June standing orders*

## Guided Tours of Newry Cathedral

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Jul 7pm

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2pm

Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm

Each Tour will take approx. 90 minutes.  
Meet at the main door of the Cathedral.  
There is no charge for these Tours.

## Celebrations at St Anne's Shrine, Mayobridge

### World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Rosary and Benediction  
will be celebrated

at 3pm at St Anne's Shrine.

All welcome.

### Feast of St Anne Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

The Shrine, Convent Gardens and  
car parks will be open all day.

The celebrations will conclude with  
Mass at 7.30pm in the Convent Gardens.  
All are welcome to visit the Shrine and  
join us for mass outdoors  
(*weather permitting*).

## Lough Derg One-Day Retreat dates

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Aug

Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Aug

Admission €45

Booking essential  
[info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org)  
00353 07198 61518

# Sunday Message

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 16 July 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

(MATTHEW 13: 1-9) – SHORTER FORM,  
(MATTHEW 13: 1-23) – LONGER FORM.



The first thing that may strike you today is the hunger of the people to hear God's Word.

The crowds have gathered in such large numbers that Jesus must sit in a boat. He teaches them using parables or stories. Bishop Robert Barron ([www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)) states that poetry and story-telling are so important in trying to reach life's deeper realities. In order for Jesus to explain the nature of God, he time and time again turns to story-telling to teach people the deeper realities of a life in God.

The Parable of the Sower contains that inherent challenge for all of us to be good listeners and receivers of God's Word. ■

### LEARN

'Both the Old and New Testaments are like a mirror in which the pilgrim Church on earth looks at God, from whom she has received everything, until she is brought finally to see Him as He is, face to face.' (Dei Verbum, 7)

### REFLECT

One of the great joys for art lovers and even curious minds like myself is a visit to 'Musée D'Orsay' in Paris. The works of Jean Francois Millet is one of the many features there and his most famous piece is that of 'The Sower.' The fame of the art work increased ten-fold with its 'translation' by Vincent Van Gogh in the latter part of the 19th century. If you're computer literate, take the time to Google the two separate pieces and compare them. You will notice that Van Gogh's depiction has more colours but there are many similarities also.

Both artists demonstrate the generosity of the Sower. His satchel full of seed is resting on his left shoulder and you can tell by the extension of the Sower's right arm, that the seed is being spread generously across the tilled earth. The Sower walks with confident strides and is totally concentrated on the task in hand, spreading the seed. Since most of Millet's paintings depict peasants at work, we can presume that the Sower in this painting worked for a local landlord.

One can surmise that there was very

little reward for his long hours of hard work. The injustices against peasants are a feature of many 19th century French artists. However, despite this, the Sower continues to sow. He has an indomitable spirit that makes him good at his job and seeks little or no reward in return for his hours of labour.

Most of us have a great understanding as to the difficulties Jesus faced as the Sower of God's Word in the world. A lot of what he said fell on deaf ears and those who did listen, never really allowed the Word to take effect or change their lives. But Jesus never gave up in his task of preaching and showing God's love to the world. He is the ultimate Sower, the kind of person who continues to follow a path and seeks nothing in return.

We listen to the seed of God's Word each time we participate in the Eucharist and when we read the Bible. May this Word take root in us and effect our minds and hearts. May it not fall on deaf ears, for in sowing God's Word, Jesus opens us up to the possibility of encountering God. ■

### DO

This is the year of Matthew's Gospel. Get into the habit of reading a single chapter every week. You will find yourself naturally entering into the world of Jesus and his followers.



### SAY

God our Father, help me to hear your Word with an open mind and heart. May it bear fruit in my life and increase my faith. Amen.