

After I left school, I went to university... for a while. Looking back, it wasn't the right time for me, and I ended up leaving the course I had started. I was young and on the dole. It was 1991, and there weren't many jobs about, so I fell back on one of the few life skills I had developed – playing music. I'd been playing the guitar for some years and had become good enough to carry a tune. I decided I'd go busking in Belfast city centre to supplement my dole money.

Back then, the police had the habit of telling buskers to move on. Often, a police officer would ask me if I had a busking licence (which I didn't. I had no idea where to get one and no inclination to get one either). Upon being told I didn't have said licence, the officer would say, "You'll have to move on," or something similar. And off I'd move... to another busking spot.

One day, I was singing a song called "Johnny B. Goode" by Chuck Berry. Midway through the second verse, I saw a police patrol rounding the corner. In those days, police patrolled in fours. I looked the other way, hoping they'd pay me no attention. After a few more bars of the song, I saw that one of them had fixed me in his gaze. He had broken away from his colleagues and was coming towards me. My heart sank. He was going to move me on. I had been making a few pounds and having fun. Now it was over. I wouldn't be able to find another good spot and would have to go home. I continued singing, but my voice lost the enthusiasm of only a minute before. In ways, I was already on the bus home.

The officer came closer and closer until he was right beside me. He leaned towards me and said out of the corner of his mouth,

"What's the chords of that song? I've always wanted to play it."

"A-D-E," I said, a little unsure of what I was hearing but with a smile forming on my face.

"Thanks," he said and winked at me, before rejoining his colleagues and walking off.

Relieved, I figuratively got off the bus home and

was present to the moment and the music. My voice strengthened, and I got back into the joy of the music. My gloomy prediction had been both inaccurate and unhelpful.

## PREDICTING THE WORST

I'm reminded of that story because it sums up how I can be a lot of the time. I decide how a situation will work out or how someone will behave before anything even happens. And when I do, I often imagine the worst possible outcome, like that day when I was busking. I judged how the police officer would react to me and had already moved myself on with my day ruined when if I had stayed in the moment, I wouldn't have had to worry at all.

I'm not saying all situations work out well. But I wonder if, at times, we worry needlessly because we rush to judgement or to predict outcomes. I think Jesus knew we could be like that. He had words he often spoke of immense help when we are worried or fear the worst: "Peace be with you." Indeed, we have enshrined Jesus's desire for us to experience peace into the words of the Mass: "Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will."

It strikes me another keyword in this particular prayer is 'faith.'

So, why not decide today to practice staying in the present moment and in faith, to allow the peace of the Lord to wash over you? By doing so, we could allow whatever comes at us to be what it is. We might even be pleasantly surprised.

I'm off to play Johnny B. Goode! ■

series ends



## Today's readings

Dan 7:13-14

Apoc 1:5-8

Jn 18:33-37

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

This is a tremendous feast with which to end the liturgical year because it turns upside down all the pre-conceived ideas we have about hierarchy, kingship and what it means to be in authority. It is not simply that Jesus is talking about a different place. He is talking about a different way of living, one that is not about control or power but love and service.

21 November 2021 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year B

Psalter Week 2

# Stu(space)

SERIES: GOD IN THE EVERYDAY

Season colour: WHITE

In this series, **Jim Deeds** finds evidence of the divine in the ordinary and extraordinary events of every day.



# DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

Rather than worrying unnecessarily, try to live in the present moment, inviting the peace of the Risen Lord to wash over you.

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021

**Recently deceased** Patsy Quinn, Ballymaginthy

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Anna O'Hare (MM)  
Brian Doyle  
Mary Ellen O'Hare

#### Leitrim

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Anne McAnulty  
Ryan Doyle, Hugh and RoseAnn Doyle  
Kieran McCrickard

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Gerard McElroy  
Mick, Mary and Michael Cassidy and  
Rosemary Doherty

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Charlie, Brigid, Jim, Jerome and Phelim  
Shields

#### Gargory

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> James and Doreen Gribben

#### Dromara

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Mary McEvoy and Bridget Gorman  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Teresa McNeill  
Mary McNeill

### St Matthews Magheramayo Fundraiser

Lucky Number Christmas Draw

Pick a number between 1-100 £10 a number

Prizes 1st £200, 2nd £100, 3rd £50.

To purchase a number please contact Martina  
Walsh 07876400820.

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish Noah  
Morgan and into Dromara Parish Shane Smith

### Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Contact us in confidence on 078 2541 9067

**Collections 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** Dromara £414 Drumgooland £564  
Parish

**Trocáire** - many thanks for the generous response to the church door collection last weekend. £1,479 came in. If anyone wishes to donate, please mark your donation 'Trocáire' and leave it in the basket at mass or hand it into the parochial house.

**The sick and housebound** will be attended on the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. If anyone wishes to be added to the list, please let me know.

### God's Word *The servant king*

This is a tremendous feast with which to end the liturgical year because it turns upside down all those pre-conceived ideas we have about hierarchy, monarchy and what it means to be in authority. As we hear in today's Gospel, even Pilate is confused. His idea of kingship is of an all-powerful ruler, controller and dictator. Jesus makes it clear he is not that kind of king. He has not come to 'lord' it over people. He is not interested in an earthly type of kingdom. His kingdom is entirely different – it is not of this world. Jesus isn't just talking about a different place. He is talking about a different way of living, that is not about control and power but love and service. Jesus' power comes from God and it is a power that builds people up rather than diminishes them. He doesn't deny that he is a king but it is not the word he would use. The only thing that matters to him is truth and that truth is God. Those who belong to God listen to the voice of Jesus, the servant king, and follow his example.

### 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

### Synodal Reflection

There are five main areas for consideration. The questions are for your personal consideration. A process is being developed for gathering your responses.

⇒ *Prayer and the Sacraments:*

⇒ *Participation, Inclusion and Dialogue (who are we walking with and who might be feeling left out or ignored?)*

⇒ *The role of lay people, especially young people and women:*

⇒ *Governance and Decision Making in the Church:*

⇒ *Our relations with other Christian denominations and people of other faiths.*

1. *In what ways is the Church important to you?*
2. *How can the Church welcome and include everyone?*
3. *How can people be listened to more effectively and encouraged to participate in decision-making within the Church?*
4. *How can more people be encouraged to participate in the life of the Church?*
5. *In your experience, how has the Church motivated you to share the love of Christ and help those in need?*
6. *How would you like to see the future of the Diocese of Dromore?*