

# Sunday Message

1 MAY 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

## THE POSTSCRIPT

(JOHN 21:1-19)



Fresco in the Church of St Wenceslas, Prague, depicting Jesus' fishing miracle

The passage today from John's Gospel is known as the 'Johannine Appendix'. The narrative proper obviously ended with the previous chapter, but the material here is clearly part of the tradition, so is included in the text.

We have the appearance of Jesus to seven male disciples in Galilee and a miraculous catch of fish after obeying Jesus' instructions, in spite of all the previous evidence, the first part culminating in a Eucharistic meal shared by the risen Jesus and his disciples. We find the catch of fish elsewhere in the Gospel story during the ministry of Jesus, and Peter's getting out of the boat and walking across the water, at least to begin with, which is used to teach a lesson to those who hear or read it.

The mention of the "charcoal fire" reminds us of the earlier scene in the palace of the high priest, where Peter is put on the spot and denies knowing Jesus. He is now offered the chance to redeem himself and cancel out his three-fold denial by a three-fold declaration of love for Jesus. It may be that Jesus is asking Peter whether Peter loves him more than he loves the other disciples. Once Peter has made that clear, then Jesus gives him the pastoral care of the flock. The mention of sheep and shepherding is an echo of Jesus' teaching about the model (or good) shepherd which we found previously in the gospel. Jesus is always to be the pattern and ideal of leadership among the disciples. After indicating Peter's fate, Jesus issues once again his command "Follow me", which is a term for being a disciple. ■

### SAY

And if you say, 'Yes, Lord,  
I love you,'  
then feed my lambs and  
feed my sheep

(Gerald Markland)

### LEARN

John Chapter 21 is known as the 'Johannine Appendix'.

This passage is set in Galilee; the other appearances of the risen Jesus take place in Jerusalem.

This section has always been attached to the text of the Gospel.

Peter's rehabilitation is the prelude to his being appointed shepherd of Jesus' flock.

### DO

When the priest and ministers come to distribute communion, think how the risen Jesus is present among us when we celebrate the Eucharist together.



## REFLECT

One of the points which we might take from our gospel reading today is the depicting of the risen Jesus present among his disciples in a Eucharistic context. He shares a meal with them, composed of bread and fish, the elements of celebration in the early community.

The thoughtful redeeming of Peter is another point for reflection: his nervous and frightened assertion in the high priest's residence at Jerusalem that he and Jesus are not acquainted is cancelled out by his clear declaring of his love for Jesus, which exceeds his love for anyone else. As a result, he is appointed shepherd of Jesus' flock, leader of the disciples.

It may be worth reflecting on the nature of leadership in the church today. The model leader is Jesus. His appointed successor is Peter, a flawed individual whose weaknesses are clearly manifest, but who is chosen by Jesus all the same. There is no hint of infallibility about Simon. Nor is there any suggestion that he is in a position of power over anyone else. Jesus' teaching about himself being the good (or model) shepherd emphasises his willingness and preparedness to give his life for the members of the flock. Peter's commission as leader is also linked to sacrifice. That is the cost of his discipleship; perhaps that is the model for our leaders today as well. ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022

### Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet  
Tues 9:00am Dromara  
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim  
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

### Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet  
7:30pm Leitrim  
Sun 9:00am Gargory  
11:00am Dromara

The sick and housebound will be attended this week. If anyone would prefer that I did not call this week please let me know. I will not be offended.

**Recently deceased** Christine Murphy, Lislea, Co Armagh

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Paddy and Phil Turley; Nicholas Doyle

#### Leitrim

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Maura Murphy (MM); John Murphy  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Barnie Cowan; Charlie and Teresa  
O'Higgins; Tommy Bannon; Joe Bannon;  
Martin Brown

#### Gargory

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> John Donnelly

### Cemetery Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Finnis 12 noon Leitrim 3pm Dechomet 5pm

**Gargory Altar Society** May Rita and Clare  
**Leitrim Cleaners** Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Kathleen's Team

**The Rosary** is prayed for peace every Sunday at 2.30pm in Mother of The Hill grotto at The Windy Gap. Everyone welcome. During the month of May the Rosary will also be prayed daily at hundreds of locations throughout Ireland. See [www.coastalrosaryireland.ie](http://www.coastalrosaryireland.ie)

**Facilitation Skills Course at Drumalis** - this course gives you an opportunity to explore the theory and practice of facilitation – with space to consider how the learning can be applied in a faith context. To find out more visit: [www.drumalis.co.uk/single-post/facilitation-skills-training-2022](http://www.drumalis.co.uk/single-post/facilitation-skills-training-2022) and <https://youtu.be/IPZ8A0Yanac> or contact: Deacon Michael Rooney ([deaconmichaelrooney@gmail.com](mailto:deaconmichaelrooney@gmail.com))

### First Communion

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> May 11am St Mary's Dechomet  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May 11am St Michael's Finnis  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May 11am St Matthew's Magheramayo

### Dromara Eucharistic Ministers

There will be a brief meeting after mass on Sun 8<sup>th</sup> May to create a rota of willing volunteers.

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£137	£720
Easter	£806	£1658

**Ukraine collection** - total collected was £7,051. This has been forwarded to Caritas International. Thank you for your very generous response.

**Trócaire** - £2,588 has come in during April. Please return any boxes or envelopes as soon as possible in order that matched funding can be claimed.

**Trócaire** will be hosting a special Spring Gala Concert at Clonard Monastery, Belfast at 7.30pm on Fri 20<sup>th</sup> May, with performances from Margaret Keys, The Priests and St Dominic's Girls' School Choir. Tickets are free of charge but donations will be gratefully received on the night of the concert, with all donations matched by the UK government in support of the 2022 Lent Appeal. To reserve tickets, visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search 'Clonard Concert Belfast', email [infol@trocaire.org](mailto:infol@trocaire.org) or call 028 9080 8030.

**We welcome** into Dromara Parish  
Ryan McManus and Meabh Lynch

**Housekeeper Wanted** - The role will include house cleaning, laundry and lunch twice a week (6 - 8 hours). The job will be registered with HMRC. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

**Pilgrimage to Knock** - Dromore Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, in conjunction with Armagh Archdiocese and the Knights of St Columbanus takes place on Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May. Coach travel and evening meal on return in Sligo, cost approx £32 (tbc). Bring packed lunch, drinks and snacks. Departing Banbridge (St Therese's) 7:30am, Lurgan (St Paul's) 8:00am. Please contact the parish office to book places, indicating where you wish to join the bus.