

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1

JESUS PASSES THE TEST

(LUKE 4:1-13)



On this first Sunday of Lent, we are taken back to the prelude to the ministry of Jesus. The Gospel tradition begins with the figure of John the Baptist, the baptism of Jesus, then Jesus' being tested.

Luke and Matthew present a dramatic confrontation between Jesus and the devil. But we might note that Luke tells us in our gospel reading today that it is the Spirit who sets up this encounter; Jesus is not ambushed in the wilderness, but rather the devil is acting, in a sense, as God's agent, to find out how Jesus understands what it means to be the Son of God. He has been revealed as such at his baptism, but will he use this knowledge as a kind of short-cut to being the Messiah people are expecting, or will he be the Son that God has in mind?

The three tests present Jesus with a choice: he can use his divine power for his own advantage or to attract a popular following. In either case, his mission is doomed. Or, he can be the Son and Messiah whom God intends, and the proof of that is not human success, but the cross. We will reflect on the final and crucial test at the end of Lent, in Holy Week. Our gospel reading hints at this, when it ends with the ominous warning that "the devil left him, to return at the appointed time" – that is, at the Last Supper, when the story of Jesus' Passion begins. ■

LEARN

The Gospel text speaks about Jesus being tested rather than tempted.

Jesus is being tested as to what he understands by his being the Son of God, as revealed at his baptism, which immediately precedes this scene.

The final test in Luke's account takes place in Jerusalem.

This sequence reflects Luke's geographical understanding of Jesus' journey to the holy city and to the cross.

SAY

We do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God's mouth

(see Matthew 4:4)

DO

Decide on your Lenten penance: but remember every time you perform it to think of Jesus and his love for you.



REFLECT

For many people, Lent is an endurance test: we decide on a penance, usually giving up something, then follows six weeks of struggle to keep to that decision, much as we may make our new year resolutions, and very often with similar success – or lack thereof. But there is more to the idea of penance. First of all, it is to make us more conscious of God in our lives: it is meant to remind us of the Lord so that, if we deny ourselves something, we are meant to reflect on

why we have given it up, to remind ourselves of Jesus' sacrifice of himself for us, and to encourage us to deepen our relationship with God, so that at the end of Lent we are closer to God than at the beginning.

Lenten penance, self-denial, is not primarily an exercise in willpower or the opportunity to lose weight. We may well decide that it is a good opportunity to adopt a healthier lifestyle, but perhaps we might always begin by thinking about

ourselves as disciples of Jesus and reflecting on whether we might adjust our behaviour and attitudes so that we live out our Christian vocation more fully.

The three traditional aspects of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. First is *prayer*, communion with the Lord; *fasting*, self-denial, comes next; and then *almsgiving*, the giving of the money we have saved to those in need, is one result of our Lenten penance. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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First Sunday of Lent – 6th March 2022

Weekend masses

Sat 12th 12:00 noon
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

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 5th Margaret Flynn (MM)
Barney O'Hare
Patrick McCartan
Patsy, Cissie and Colette McMullan

Dromara

Sun 6th Paschal Hawthorne (MM)
Fri 12th Peter McNeill and John McNeill
Deceased Members of Branniff Family,
Drumkeeragh
Sun 13th Mary Hughes (Derry)

Dechomet

Sat 12th Kevin Gregory (MM)
Brian and Colm Rooney and
Sr Josephine Rooney

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

St Matthew's Magheramayo Sponsored Walk

Sun 13th Mar 10am Leitrim Fit Trial. Please come along and support us with our fund-raising efforts. Catch up with old and new family and friends while getting a few laps in. Children can dress up if they wish, spot prizes on the day. Tea/coffee tuck shop will be open. Sponsor sheets will be sent home with children, or you can make an online donation via our PayPal email:

friendsofmagheramayo@gmail.com Everyone Welcome!

We welcome into Dromara Parish Erinne Drake and into Drumgooland Parish Louie Philson-McCabe

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£505	£715

Sick and housebound will be attended next week

Trócaire Boxes

Boxes are available at the back of all the churches. This year Trócaire has obtained matched funding, so any donation will be doubled.

First Confessions

Tue 8th Mar - St Matthew's 7:30pm in Leitrim
Tue 15th Mar - St Michael's 7:30pm in Dromara

Keeping each other safe

Thank you all who wear face coverings during mass, it is a gift to others.

Some ribbons have been removed from the back seats of all the churches but if you can keep a distance, please do so.

Any person who wishes to come to mass is welcome. If you have any symptoms, or suspect you may be carrying the virus, please do not come at that time.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Online lecture Mon 14th Mar 7:30pm

To celebrate St Patrick's Week, the Society will host an online lecture by Geoff Cobb entitled "*10 Northern Irish immigrants who left their mark on New York*".

Geoff Cobb, a very active historian and chronicler of Irish life in New York, is the author of "*The Irish in New York*" 2021. His talk will be a new and exciting venture for the Society.

Access to the event will be available from 7:20pm. The talk will start at 7:30pm sharp.

A link to the talk can be obtained by e-mailing the Hon Secretary goss.jjm@gmail.com and will be forwarded on Mon 14th Mar.