

Sunday Message

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 6 November 2022 • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

LUKE 20:27-38



The Sadducees are out to trap Jesus. They don't believe in the resurrection and want to ridicule Jesus as someone who does.

According to Jewish law, if a man died and left no son, the man's brother had an obligation to father a son for his dead brother's widow. So the Sadducees come up with an absurd case. Seven brothers marry the same woman, and each dies, leaving her childless. When she dies, whose wife will she be in heaven?

Jesus' answer shows up their insincerity. He says that in the next life, after the resurrection, all people will be in relationship with God. There will be no need to propagate the human species, nor will legal arrangements be important.

Jesus goes on to give his teaching about the resurrection. God is faithful to all people, even when they die. God makes a promise forever, and no force – not even death – can destroy it.

Every Sunday, we celebrate the extraordinary story of Easter. In doing so, we give thanks to the God whose faithful love is stronger than death. ■

LEARN

By his cross and resurrection, Jesus has destroyed death.

Belief in the afterlife is central to the Christian faith.

In baptism we are linked to the death of Christ, so we are linked too with his new life.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope even in the bleakest situations.

DO

Visit someone you know who is recently bereaved, or write to them expressing your sympathy.

SAY

**In you, Lord, we live forever.
I thank you for your promise
to me of eternal life.**

DO

Write down the name of each person you have loved and lost, and pray for them with gratitude to God for their lives.

REFLECT

We love to have something to look forward to. Some people probably know that there are just 49 days left to Christmas. They're already counting them down, loving the build-up to it – the music, excitement, decorations, fun, and of course, the presents. We can hardly wait.

It's the same if a birthday or other big event is coming up. We may mark it on the calendar with an X or asterisk and wait impatiently for the day to arrive.

It's as if we always need something to look forward to. If you're in school, you look forward to the holidays or finishing with school. If you're in jail, you look forward to getting out. If you're sick, you look forward to getting better. If you're pregnant, you look forward to having the baby. If you're engaged, you look forward to the wedding. If you're working, you look forward to the holidays or weekend or retirement. If

you're at Mass, you look forward to having a short homily.

We are always looking forward. When one event happens, we turn to the next future expectation. As humans, it seems we need to have something to anticipate. It appears that the human heart is always restless, never wholly fulfilled.

Today's Gospel is about looking forward, about anticipation. The Sadducees were a group of Jews who did not believe in the afterlife. One day a group of them come to Jesus and ask him a question to trick him into agreeing with them that there is no resurrection. But Jesus is able to answer their question and reduce them to silence.

We know there are many people like the Sadducees around today who believe that when we breathe our last, that is it. That what we experience here and now is all there is. That when we die,

everything stops. They don't believe in the resurrection.

You could say they have nothing to look forward to beyond the here and now. But we Christians have something to look forward to.

We Christians are graced, blessed with something precious, a priceless knowledge. Because we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. We believe that the resurrection of Christ means the death of death, so that when we die, we do not pass from life to death but rather from life to life. For us, death is not an exit to oblivion but the threshold to a new, transformed life with Christ in God forever.

I'm in no rush to get to heaven, but I do look forward to it. And I have it to look forward to. It's the exciting prospect awaiting all of us Christians, in which we can take joy, comfort and consolation. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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6th November 2022
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 Recently deceased Christy Morgan, formerly Derryneil P.J. McElroy, formerly Benraw Anniversaries (2023 Anniversary Book now available) Leitrim Sat 5th Pauline Kelly John and Bel Malone Alice McAnulty Sat 12th Kieran McCrickard Rita O'Hare P.D. Cunningham Dromara Sun 6th Sarah Hughes (Finnis) Pat King Gargory Sun 13th Patsy Quinn Leitrim Cleaners Fri 11 th Nov – Kathleen's Team Safeguarding P Carville 077 8991 7741		Collections Parish Dromara £375 Drumgooland £710 Helping the Christians in the Holy Land The Holy Cross Missionary Group from Bethlehem, will be visiting the parishes on 12 th and 13 th Nov, to sell religious articles (crucifixes; rosary beads, nativity cribs and plaques, made from olive wood in Bethlehem), to help and support poor Christian families, any help you could give them will be highly appreciated. Drumgooland SVP A little help at the right time can make a big difference. SVP can provide practical help and support, in strict confidence. If you are struggling with food/heating bills, etc., please contact us: Drumgooland 078 2541 9067 Dromara 077 3883 8191 November Dead Lists Are available at the back of the churches. If people wish to leave a memory card or photo of a deceased relative before the altar, they are welcome to do so. Masses for the recently deceased in our parishes will all be celebrated at 7:30pm on: Mon 7 th Nov in Dechomet Wed 9 th Nov in Leitrim Fri 11 th Nov in Finnis The names of those who have died in our parishes, or were buried in our parishes, will be called out, and a family member will carry up a candle in their memory. There will be candles available for those who wish to remember other loved ones who have died.	
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