

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 5 February 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



LEARN

Jesus is the Light of the world.

Our Christian faith can never be a private matter, something we keep hidden. It must be out there, shining bright for all to see.

DO

Jesus is the light of the world. As his followers, we must be a light to our world also. Look at your life, your values, your behaviour. What kind of light do you shine? For help on how to be a light to others, read the words of Isaiah in today's first reading.



SAY

Lord, help me to be a beacon of your presence in our world. Give me the courage to shine your light everywhere. Amen.

PRAY

Pray for people living in the darkness of depression or experiencing tremendous financial or family difficulties. Ask the Lord to be with them, to fill them with his light and love.



The key to today's Gospel is the two sayings comparing the disciples to salt and light. Both begin with the words "You are..." and then draw out lessons from these two natural elements.

Salt was an essential commodity for life. In an era before refrigeration, it was used to preserve food or add flavour. Salt was an essential item of trade in the ancient world. The Dead Sea in Palestine was rich in minerals, including salt, but it was not always of the highest quality because of the presence of other minerals in it. Salt doesn't easily lose its flavour, but it can become damp and difficult to use. When that happens, all you can do is throw it away.

Disciples are to become "salt of the earth". The word 'earth' should be understood here in its general sense of the world. By their way of life, especially one that is modelled on the beatitudes, they will impart flavour to the world and preserve it from going bad.

Disciples must also be a light to the world. Towns in the ancient world were often built on top of hills for defensive purposes, as the hill offered protection from an invading army. Even if protected by a wall, a town on a hillside could not be hidden from view. In the same way, the lifestyle of the disciples of Jesus should be visible to all and mark them out as different.

The short parable-like saying about what people do when they light a lamp develops the same theme. Lamps are intended to give light. It would be foolish to light a lamp and hide it under a bucket, except if the house was in danger of being burgled. The light the disciple of Jesus will shed on the world comes from his or her good deeds. ■

REFLECT

Salt has a bad reputation today. Doctors tell us that too much of it is bad for us, that it increases the risk of heart attacks and other illnesses. It's not the sort of news that salt lovers like to hear.

But while health-wise there may be such a thing as too much salt, faith-wise there is no such thing as too much salt.

Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth. Like good salt, our lives must add fresh flavour to our world. But how precisely do we add that flavour?

By practising what we profess in church every day, by being faithful to our Christian calling as best we can, by trying to live up to the radical challenge spelled out so strongly for us by the prophet Isaiah in today's first reading. That's what being salt of the earth means.

Even if you reduce the amount of salt you put in your dinner or pour onto your chips, you must never cut back on the Christian witness you are called to give every day.

There is no better compliment than to be referred to as 'salt of the earth'.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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5th February 2023
5th 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

The sick and housebound will be attended this week.
If any person wants me to call, please let me know.

Do This in Memory at all masses 11th/12th Feb

Ash Wednesday 22nd Feb

Recently deceased Teresa Reavey, Munnibane

Anniversaries

Leitrim

Sat 4th Fr Jim Mooney
Patsy McGlue and Paul McEleney
Michael Murphy
Sat 11th Fr Frank Lyons
Frank & Margaret McElroy

Dromara

Sun 5th Peter McEvoy & Martin Drake
Daniel, Liam & Mary Marmion
Sun 12th Canon Barney Treanor
Peter & Kathleen Gilmore

Bingo Please join the 'Friends of St Michael's Parents Group' on Sun 12th Feb at 3pm for a great afternoon of bingo in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm. Good fun, refreshments and great raffle prizes so please come along and show your support for the school.

SVDP Any person who wishes to know more about being a volunteer please ring (028) 91241943 or visit online www.svp.ie/volunteer or speak to any of the local volunteers.

SVDP contact numbers:

Dromara 077 3883 8191 Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Safeguarding contact: P Carville 077 8991 7741

Leitrim Cleaners Fri 10th Kathleen's Team

Drumgooland Parish Council

Meeting Mon 6th Feb 8pm Parochial House

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£579	£1,179

Collectors Needed

Volunteers to take up the collection are welcome in all the churches, women as well as men. Please give your name.

Trócaire marked its 50th Anniversary on 2nd Feb. Hopefully a person from Trócaire will speak at the masses during Lent to express gratitude for your generosity over the years and to speak of their present work

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
John Joe Murnion

Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage

Anyone who wishes to travel this year must return their paperwork by 10th Feb.
Any queries please contact:
Ann 077 8819 5938 or
Kieran 079 86366162

Review of Safeguarding in Dromore Diocese

The Diocese of Dromore has invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) to conduct a review of safeguarding practice in March 2023. If you have any views about Safeguarding in the Diocese, we invite you to come forward and email us at safeguarding@dromorediocese.org or contact the Diocesan Office (028) 30262444, or to the NBSCCCI (01-5053124).

If you wish to report a child safeguarding concern, please contact Mrs Pat Carville on 07789917741.

You may also wish to contact the PSNI (101 non-emergency or 999 emergency)

The Gateway Team (Children's Social Services) can be contacted on (028) 3741 5285, or Freephone 0800 783 7745

South Eastern Trust (028) 9050 7000

NSPCC 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk