

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Second Sunday of Advent 10th December 2023

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 8th 7:30pm Dromara

Confession for Christmas

Mon 18th Dechomet 8-8:30pm
Wed 20th Leitrim 6:30-7:15pm
Fri 22nd Dromara 6:30-7:15pm
Sat 23rd Gargory 10-10:30am

Christmas Masses

The Masses on Sat 23rd & Sun 24th will be as usual.

Christmas Eve 7pm Dechomet 7pm Gargory
8:15pm Leitrim 9:30pm Dromara
Christmas Morn 9am Gargory 10am Leitrim
11am Dromara



Recently Deceased

Rita Kennedy (nee McKay), Drumaness

ANNIVERSARIES

DECHOMET

Sat 9th John & Margaret Leonard
Sat 16th Patrick Joseph Murphy MM
Willie Doyle

LEITRIM

Sat 9th Rosie McAleenan & Margaret O'Hare
Patrick Charles McAleenan
Arthur James & Seamus Doyle
Deceased Members of Behan Family

Wed 13th Anne McAlarney
Eamonn McAnulty

Sat 16th Patsy Bannon
Barney & Agnes Morgan
Cecilia, Catherine & Pat Murphy
Patrick Smyth

GARGORY

Sun 10th John Hartnett & Deceased Family Members

DROMARA

Sun 10th Davy McKay
Laura Armstrong, Hughie, Isabella
& Hugh Lavery

Sun 17th Canon Gerry McCrory
Gerard & Mary McGrillen

SVP Drom 077 3883 8191 / Drum 078 2541 9067
Safeguarding Contact Pat Carville 077 8991 7741

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £502 £792
Prop of Faith £201 £400

Thank you for your continued contributions.

St Michael's Hall £180. Thanks to the contributions for the use of the Hall

**Festive Coffee Morning & Craft Fair Sun 10th Dec
11:30am- 3:30pm** St Michael Hall, Finnis

Leitrim Choir Practice for Christmas Eve Mass
11th Dec at 7:15pm. All new members
(both adults & children) very welcome.

**St Matthew's Primary School, Magheramayo
Christmas Play Wed 13th Dec 9:30am & 7pm**
in Liatroim Clubrooms. **Christmas Raffle &
Cake Sale** at both shows. Everyone welcome!

St Michael's PS Finnis Open Night Wed 13th Dec 6:30pm-7:30pm

Everyone is welcome to come along to our
Open Night for Reception & Primary 1
children for Sept 2024 entry.

Any questions please contact the
School on 028 97 532404.

*(Reception children can begin on the
Monday after their 4th birthday)*

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Launch of latest **Journal Thur 14th Dec 11am**
at Veritas, The Mall, Newry

*The Journal has a wide range of articles on topics
of local relevance and would make an ideal
Christmas present for the interested reader.*

Priced £15 (or £25 for 2 copies)

First Communion preparation continues
on **16th & 17th Dec** at all masses

St Vincent de Paul

Annual Christmas collection this weekend.

Thank you to all who contribute.

Drumgooland – envelopes can be placed
on the collection baskets.

Christmas Cards are available.

We Welcome into Dromara Parish

Ezra Joseph Hutchinson

and into Drumgooland Parish

Daithí Sé McAleavey

Trócaire School Volunteers

for School Talks Programme for Lent 2024

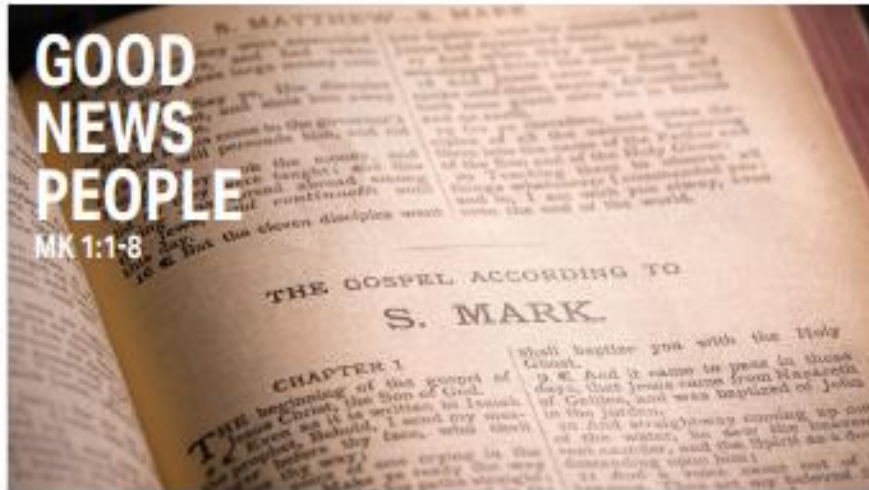
*Are you a retired teacher or someone who has
experience presenting to groups of school children?*

For more information call Casey Schell on
028 90808033 / email: casey.schell@trocaire.org

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • 10 December 2023 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 2



From the very beginning of his Gospel, Mark states clearly what it is about – “the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1).

The opening verse of the Gospel served originally as a title for the entire book. We normally put a book's title on its spine or cover. At the time Mark wrote his Gospel, books had two forms – the scroll and the codex. The codex was similar to our modern books in that the leaves or pages were sewn together and bound within a cover. Several short books might be gathered into a single codex. In such cases, it would be important to distinguish the various books by putting the title at the head of each one. The opening verse would probably have served as the title. This is a common technique found in the Old Testament and Mark uses it also.

The reason we gather today is because we believe the first verse of Mark's Gospel to be true. We believe the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. That is why we gather to praise him, to receive him in the Eucharist, to anticipate his coming at Christmas and at the end of time, and to pledge to live like him. ■

REFLECT

It's fair to say there is no shortage of bad news stories around. The spike in inflation over the past two years has left many people in financial distress, struggling to pay energy bills and make ends meet. Brexit continues to have implications for the Good Friday Agreement and for the broader economy. War in Ukraine has created more refugees than at any time since the 1940s, not to mention the incalculable suffering it has visited on so many innocent people. Often it seems impossible to open a newspaper or listen to a news bulletin or access a news blog without feeling overwhelmed by the scale and volume of bad news stories. The advent of social media and of instant notifications on our smart devices makes it even harder to escape the constant deluge of breaking bad news.

So many advances have been made in technology and medicine and in human rights in recent decades, yet the human capacity for evil seems as strong as ever. Torture, terrorism, abuse, persecution, human trafficking, poverty, violence and

injustice remain endemic, part of the DNA of our broken human condition.

Aware of the impact of bad news stories on readers, *The New York Times* newspaper some years ago introduced a feature called 'The Week in Good News.' The weekly newsletter, it said, was intended to send the reader into the weekend with a smile, or at least a lighter heart. The news magazine *The Week* now also has a section called 'Good News: Happy news stories today from around the world.' It includes little items of good news that readers otherwise might have missed, little stories that act as a welcome counterpoint to the surfeit of bad news that fills the rest of its pages.

We Christians are called to take our lead from *The Week in Good News*, except that our good news is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Look at the very first words of today's Gospel, which are the very first words of the Gospel of St Mark, which was the first of the four Gospels to be written. Mark announces that this is the beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, the

DO

Think about the stories you tell, the gossip or items of news you share with loved ones and colleagues. Do they build up or knock down? Are they constructive or destructive? Try to be a good news practitioner.

SAY

"Lord, help me always to listen to your word and accept it as good news. Help me to draw closer to you. Amen."

PRAY

Pray for those who do not hear the Gospel as good news or have rejected its message. Ask the Lord to touch their hearts this Advent season.

LEARN

Advent offers a welcome counterpoint to the bad news stories we encounter every day

Christians know that all our hope has been fulfilled in Jesus

The Christian is a prophetic voice in our world

Son of God. He wants to make it clear that the Gospel is good news for all who hear it, good news available to everyone.

Like the early Christians for whom Mark wrote, we are also Good News people. The reason we gather in church every week is because we believe the message of the Gospel to be true. We believe the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We believe that no matter what bad news is out there, no matter how painful the human condition, no matter what difficulties or setbacks we have to deal with, God is with us, as God promised. All our hope has been fulfilled in Jesus. This is extraordinary good news when you think about it; the good news we celebrate every Advent season, the good news we are called to announce every day. God loves us; God is one with us, God will never abandon us; God cares for God's people.

No better gift could we share in these troubled times than the joy and comfort we find in the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. ■