

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 15 January 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

JOHN'S WITNESS

(JN 1:29-34)



Statue of St John the Baptist, on Charles Bridge, Prague

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist adopts the role of witness on behalf of Jesus. He points toward Jesus and offers powerful evidence of why he is convinced Jesus is the Messiah. He wants to persuade anyone who will listen that Jesus is indeed the one they have been waiting for, the one they should follow.

First, he says that Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This language is probably inspired by the language of sacrifice in the Temple. Two lambs were sacrificed in the Temple in Jerusalem each day, one in the morning and one in the evening. Individuals also offered a lamb in sacrifice if they needed to perform a rite to regain their ritual purity on certain occasions. The most important offering of a lamb took place at Passover. Then the animal's blood was used to mark the house while the flesh was eaten at the Passover meal. The Gospel writer draws many parallels between the death of Jesus and the paschal lamb. Jesus dies close to evening time when the lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple. The soldiers do not break the bones of his legs to hasten death: it was forbidden to break any of the bones of the paschal lamb while it was being prepared. Instead, the soldier pierces his side causing blood and water to flow out. St Paul also calls Jesus the Passover lamb that has been sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7).

The second important thing John the Baptist says about Jesus is that it was revealed to him that this young man from Galilee was the one about whom he was preaching, even though he did not know him beforehand. Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah.

The third thing he says about Jesus is that he will baptise, not with water, but with the Holy Spirit. This means that Jesus will plunge us quite literally into the depths of God's life just as surely as John plunged those who came looking for baptism into the waters of the Jordan. Plunging a person into the depths of God is not merely something on the outside. It opens them to a new depth of relationship with God, to receive God's own life. Later in John's Gospel, Jesus will express that in simple language when he says that he came that we might have life and have it to the full (John 10:10).

As Christians, we also are called to point to Jesus, to offer evidence on his behalf. We do this not only by what we say but also by the kind of people we are. ■

REFLECT

Last year, one of the most talked-about media and social media events was the court showdown between actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. It was broadcast live on American court TV, and its proceedings were followed assiduously by millions.

At the same time, on this side of the Atlantic, one of the biggest media and social media events was the London libel trial featuring football WAGs Coleen Rooney and Rebekah Vardy.

It's no surprise that these confrontations were such major media events, because both involved celebrities and courtroom dramas. Most of us love anything to do with courts and courtrooms. From Judge Judy to Atticus Finch to *12 Angry Men* to anything by John Grisham, we love legal dramas.

Today's Gospel has strong echoes of a legal drama, with John the Baptist playing the role of chief witness for Jesus. He points to Jesus and identifies who Jesus is: the Lamb of God, the Chosen One of God. He witnesses to Jesus publicly and on the record.

We probably won't be called upon to witness to Jesus in a court of law (hopefully, we'll never have to appear in a court of law), but we are called to witness to Jesus as Christians. We are called to testify on his behalf. We do so by the kind of people we are, the values we hold, and the concrete actions we take every single day. ■

SAY

"Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us."

DO

Be a witness for Christ this week. Speak to someone about what your faith means to you.

LEARN

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist describes Jesus as the Chosen One of God. Each one of us is a chosen one of God. God has created us in God's image and likeness and has shaped us after himself. We are special in God's eyes.

PRAY

This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Traditionally, it runs from 18-25 January. Give thanks to God for the many beliefs Christians from the mainstream churches hold in common. Pray for deeper unity between all Christians.



Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

15th January 2023
2nd 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

Anniversaries

Dechomet

Sat 14th John Fitzpatrick
Sat 28th Ellie Morgan (MM); Mickey Turley

Dromara

Fri 20th Dean Tony Davies; Terry Davies
Sun 22nd Kathleen, John & Sarah Gordon
Fri 27th Winnie & Gerry Dunniece

Leitrim

Sat 28th Henry & Rita O'Hare; Margaret Blaney;
John Anthony Cunningham; Evelyn Clarke

SVP If you are struggling with food/heating bills, etc., please contact us: Dromara 077 3883 8191 or Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Mon 23rd Jan 7:30pm online Zoom lecture by Larry Breen entitled "*Dan Donnelly, Regency Rogue- his life and times*". Access to the event will be available from 7:20pm with a 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 Mon 23rd

Dromara Community Group has entered The Grand Choice programme sponsored by LCCC and PCSP. A grant of £1,000 is available to successful groups. We would like to purchase a public notice board for Dromara Village to enable folks to know what is taking place in the area. This funding has to be voted for, groups with the most votes get a grant. Please come along and vote for us in Legacurry Church Hall (249 Upr Ballynahinch Rd, Lisburn) Sat 14th Jan between 11am & 3pm

Assumption Grammar School Open Day

Sat 21st Jan from 10:00am - 1:00 pm. Principal's Address 10:00am & 11:00am. We look forward to meeting prospective P6 & P7 pupils, and those wishing to transfer into Sixth Form.

Services of Light - Preparation for Confirmation

St Mary's Mon 23rd
St Michael's Tues 24th
St Matthew's Tues 31st
All at 7:30pm

Do This in Memory - Preparation for First Communion - 21st/22nd Jan

The children are asked to bring a small bottle of water which will be blessed

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£142	£525

Dromara Parish Council Meeting

Mon 16th Jan 8pm in St Michael's Hall

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Georgia McCoe

Dromore Diocesan Lourdes

50th Jubilee Pilgrimage to Lourdes 17th May-22nd May 2023. Cost **£750**. This includes general insurance cover (to include Covid 19), transport to/from airports, full board accommodation, a programme of ceremonies in Lourdes, assistance of travel agent representatives in Lourdes (further details available on booking form). Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we will not be using the hospital accommodation (Accueil) in Lourdes and will therefore be **unable to support an assisted section** in Lourdes. This means we will not have support from doctors, nurses, and volunteers as we had pre-pandemic. There is only 1 aircraft (189 seats), and bookings will be accepted on first come basis. This means a properly completed booking form and deposit (£150, nonrefundable) must be submitted to secure booking.

If you are interested in travelling to Lourdes as a pilgrim in May, please contact Dromara & Drumgooland Lourdes Committee:

Ann Kelly, Secretary 07788195938
Kieran McEvoy, Chairperson 07986366162, or speak to any member of the Committee as soon as possible to book. **Bookings will close on Fri 10th Feb (or earlier if 189 reached before that).**

Safeguarding contact: P Carville 077 8991 7741