

The story of the cure of the woman with the haemorrhage takes place while Jesus is on his way to the house of Jairus, where he restores Jairus's daughter to life. The woman with the haemorrhage is suffering unbelievably. She has been bleeding for twelve years. She has gone from one doctor to another, spending all her money on useless treatments. She is broke and desperate.

In Jesus's day, blood was considered to be a person's life-force. People who bled were avoided and isolated out of fear of ritual contamination. So, together with the haemorrhaging, the woman was socially isolated within her own community. She had no life and no future.

She has heard about Jesus and, summoning up her faith, she touches his clothes. She is cured instantly. She touches him and she is restored to health. Her life has been given back to her.

THE WAYS WE TOUCH EACH OTHER

Jesus knew the importance of physical touch. Remember how the fever leaves Peter's mother-in-law as soon as Jesus touches her. His touch alone is sufficient.

Over and over again in the Gospels, the same story is repeated. Jesus meets someone who is ill or has a disability. He touches them, and their health is restored. The blind see, the crippled walk, haemorrhages are cured, even the dead are restored to life. All are made new again through the power of his healing touch.

Jesus's words alone would have done the job but he is tactile. Deliberately tactile. He knows how powerful and healing physical touch can be. Even to touch Jesus's clothes, as the woman with the haemorrhage does, is sufficient to be made whole again.

Jesus's use of the power of touch is an opportunity for us to reflect on how we touch others. It reminds us that we touch each other in many different ways – not just physically, but through word and gesture also. It

reminds us that touch can be positive or negative. It can build up or knock down; it can be constructive and life-enhancing or destructive and life-diminishing.

We can touch someone with a warm hug or embrace or we can touch someone with a slap or a blow or a beating. The statistics tell us that domestic violence and physical and sexual abuse are major problems in our society.

We can touch someone with a word of encouragement or gratitude or love. Or we can touch someone with a word of contempt or anger or abuse. We know that words have the power to wound as deeply as any physical assault. Bullying in schools and in the workplace is endemic, facilitated by social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

We can touch someone with a gesture that shows respect or appreciation or thanks. A thumbs up, a smile, a nod. Or we can touch someone with a gesture that shows anger or contempt or impatience. Think of the incidents of road rage or of the snarl of disapproval of someone who is perhaps socially inept or that we look down on.

Jesus's touch gave people life. All he said and did gave people life. He gives us life even now in the Eucharist and the sacraments.

And that's our challenge – to invite Jesus to touch and transform us, in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in our life of prayer.

Our challenge also is to bring the gentle touch of Jesus to all whose lives touch ours.

That all our acts of touch will be acts of love and tenderness and affection.

That all the words we use will be gentle and encouraging and constructive.

That all the gestures we make will be supportive and uplifting and positive.

That all the ways in which we touch others will be life-enhancing and grace-filled, as Jesus's actions were. ■

Stu()space

SERIES: POINTERS ON THE JOURNEY

Season colour: **GREEN**

In this series, **Gerard Moloney, C.Ss.R** reflects on the Gospel in the context of today.



THE POWER OF TOUCH

Sometimes in our grief, we try to be the hero and to grieve alone, but the true hero is not afraid to seek support.



Today's readings

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24

2 Cor 8:7,9,13-15

Mk 5:21-43

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Jesus's healing power can overcome all barriers that isolate and imprison us. Jairus was isolated by being part of the religious establishment that opposed Jesus. Yet his love for his daughter triggered within him the courage to cross that barrier and save his daughter. The haemorrhaging woman was isolated by her illness. Yet her desperation for a life in the community led her to touch Jesus in faith. Both were freed.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergencies: 079 69403762 Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradgooland.org

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 27th June 2021

Recently Deceased

John Love, Castlewellan
Cathal Ward, Mountfield Road

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 26th Meta Mooney
Michael McElroy
Oisin Blaney
John Cunningham

Wed 30th James Cunningham

Wed 7th Brendan Ward and Deceased
Family Members

Dromara

Sun 27th Hugh McCoubry
Liz Gordon

Sun 4th Joe Gordon
Margaret Marmion

Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and
need a helping hand?
Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Charlotte King

Congratulations to the P4 children of
St Mary's PS, Dechomet who celebrated
their First Holy Communion on Sat 19th June

Congratulations to Colette King and Shaun
Reynolds who were married recently

Lough Derg 2021

Registration is now open to "*Do Lough Derg
from wherever you are*" from 3rd to 5th July.

The Prior, Fr La Flynn, will do the Three-Day
Pilgrimage on the Island during these days.

To offer a live link by webcam in support of those
who will choose to do the pilgrimage wherever
they are, some of the Lough Derg staff will do the
pilgrimage in St. Mary's Church in Pettigo.

To register or for further information please:

Email: info@loughderg.org,

Telephone: 00353 71 861518.

Website: www.loughderg.org

Gargory Altar Society

July - Marie

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

Face coverings are mandatory at all church
gatherings, mass, baptisms, funerals and
weddings. Please help to protect yourself and
others by wearing one.

Gift Aid

Many thanks to all the people who returned the
notes or forms about Gift Aid.

The Parishes must keep an up-to-date record of
Gift Aid claims, the person must have paid
income tax over the preceeding year. If you
received a letter please mark Yes or No and
return it in the post or send an email.

Some parishioners did receive Gift Aid forms,
if you are a tax payer sign the form and return it
please. This adds to your generosity to the
parish as we can reclaim 25% from the Inland
Revenue.

If you did not receive a letter and pay tax please
let me know and a form will be sent to you.