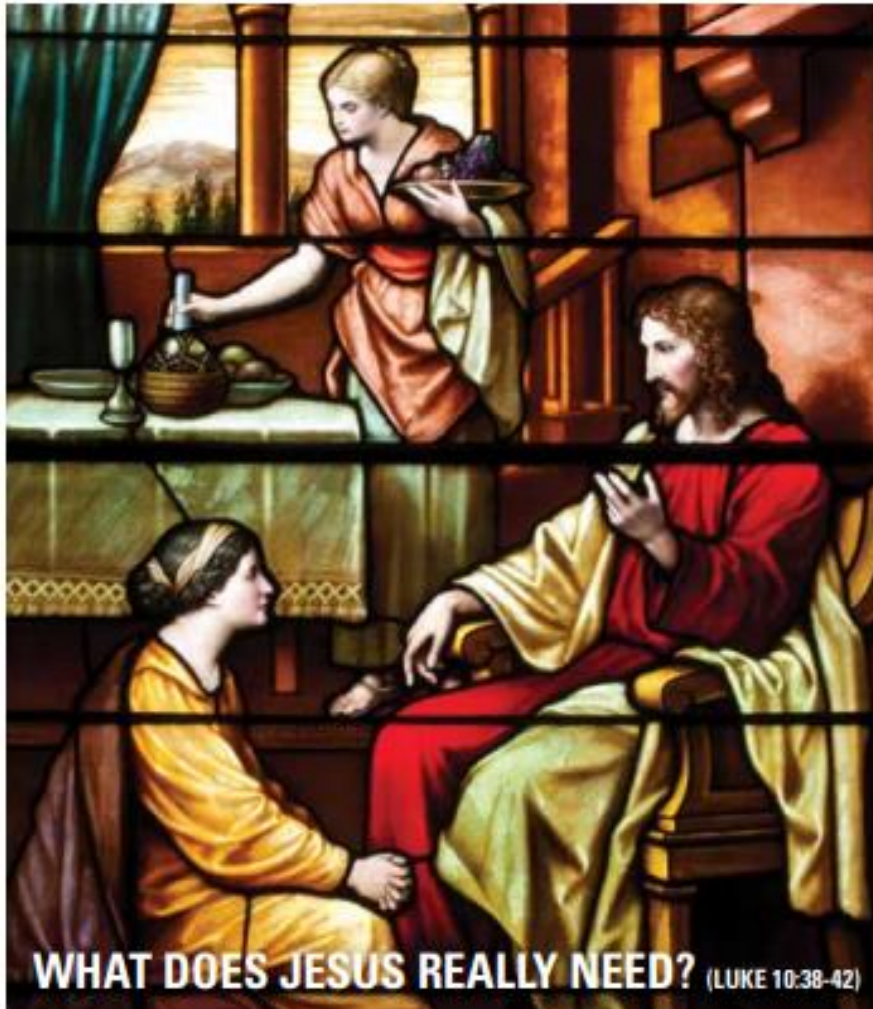


# 17 JULY 2022 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



**WHAT DOES JESUS REALLY NEED?** (LUKE 10:38-42)

*Stained glass window depicting visit of Jesus to home of Martha and Mary*

In the course of his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus is welcomed into the house of a woman named Martha and her sister, Mary. Women feature more prominently, and by name, in the Gospel version of Luke than in the other accounts.

In this episode, Jesus encounters hospitality, not just friendliness or politeness, but an essential element in the culture of that time and place. Up to now, we have heard warnings and examples about hostility and rejection. But even in this apparently cosy, domestic scene there is a message. ■

## LEARN

The word used for 'serving' in Luke's Gospel is the root from which we derive 'deacon' and 'diaconate'.

The subject of the verb in Luke's Gospel is, apart from Jesus, women.

Women are those who supported Jesus and his other disciples out of their own resources.

Hospitality, offering protection and safety toward the stranger and pilgrim, was a sacred duty in the time of Jesus.

## DO

Donate to the St Vincent de Paul Society in your parish: better, how could you help in their ministry of befriending lonely people in your area?

## SAY

**Will you let me be your servant, be as Christ to you?**  
(Richard Gillard)

## REFLECT

One method of meditation encourages us to place ourselves in the Gospel scene which we are considering. So, if we imagine Jesus in the house of Martha and Mary, we might ask ourselves, 'What did Jesus really need at this moment?' Perhaps he was tired from his journey, exasperated with his male disciples and their lack of understanding about himself and his mission. On a purely human level, maybe he simply needed to talk, which would mean that he needed someone to listen to him.

Most of us would feel sympathy for Martha: we can imagine the clashing of pots and pans increasing in volume as her frustration at being left in the kitchen to prepare the meal alone grows. Eventually, her patience runs out and she bursts into the conversation between Jesus and Mary. But if she had her way, Jesus would be left sitting alone while the two of them busied themselves in the kitchen. Is that what hospitality means? Does it centre on the accepted duties of the host being fulfilled, or is it a matter of meeting the needs of the guest? What were Jesus' needs at this point? A meal, or rather human company and attention?

Martha is clear about her duties towards her guest. But Jesus gently points out that perhaps she has got her priorities wrong. She is concerned about fulfilling her responsibilities but seems totally unaware of the needs or feelings of her guest. Luke presents Jesus in his gospel as a prophet, and the prophet is the bearer of the Word, which has to be spoken and to be listened to. In this sense, it is Mary who is presented as "choosing the better part". But Martha is avoiding listening to Jesus, although, from her point of view, she is doing the right thing. Luke is suggesting that that the Word of God takes precedence over other considerations.

What people really need is someone to listen to them, someone to talk to. It is natural to feel that making tea and providing sandwiches is the right thing to do to meet someone's immediate needs. Often well-meaning people will busy themselves in such ways but have no time to spend with the persons to whom they are ministering. On a practical level, the story of Martha and Mary is posing an important question: what does the person in front of you really need? Whose needs are you addressing: theirs or yours? ■

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17 July 2022

### Weekend masses

**Sat** 6:00pm Dechomet  
7:30pm Leitrim  
**Sun** 9:00am Gargory  
11:00am Dromara

No weekday masses this week  
(next one Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 7:30pm Dromara)

I will be away on holiday from Sun 17<sup>th</sup> July to  
Fri 5<sup>th</sup> August.

For emergency sick calls or deaths please try  
Fr Brian Brown on 07496731619.  
My mobile phone will be turned off during my  
holiday.

If anyone wishes to book an anniversary mass when  
I am not here, please leave a note in the letterbox, or  
a message on the answering machine, or send an  
email. The bulletin is prepared on a Thursday  
morning, so please leave your messages before then.

### Streaming of masses

It may not be possible to have all masses streamed  
during my absence. Hopefully there will be some  
each weekend.

### St Patrick's Missionary Society, Kiltegan

Any donations or subscriptions can be handed in  
with the parish envelopes or left in the parochial  
house. I will forward these when I return.

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Margaret and Gerry Quail

#### Leitrim

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Shane, Winnie and Barney Owens  
Brian Donnelly

#### Dromara

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Hugh Pat McEvoy  
Eamon Lundy

### Whist

Whist restarting in St Michael's Hall, Finnis on  
Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8:00pm. Adm £5. Please support.

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£440	£623

### Congratulations to:

Jane McMulan and Joseph Hughes  
Stephen Mackin and Caitlin Lee  
Lisa Fitzpatrick and Daryl Walker  
who were married recently.

### Congratulations to all the St Malachy's High School Graduates 2022

Any past student from St. Malachy's High School  
who has recently graduated and would like to be  
included in our submission in the local newspaper  
in August, please contact Mrs Mags O'Hare at the  
school on 028 437 78255 or [mohare964@c2kni.net](mailto:mohare964@c2kni.net).  
All information must be submitted before Friday 5<sup>th</sup>  
August 2022.

### What does Jesus really need?

In the course of his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus is  
welcomed into the house of a woman named  
Martha, and her sister, Mary. Jesus encounters  
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essential element in the culture of that time and  
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