

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

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

23rd Sunday in ordinary time

8th September 2024

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

Recently deceased



Brian Ward, Kílcoo
Nicky Duggan, Killyleagh, formerly Ballymaginthy

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 7th Mary Rooney (Dechomet)

Leitrim

Sat 7th John O'Hare (Backaderry)
Annie Grant

Sat 14th Eddie McAleenan
Mary Catherine & Seamus Doyle
Mena Duggan

Dromara

Sun 8th Declan O'Hare
Fri 13th Peter Greenan (Castlewellan)
& Deceased Family Members
Patrick McKey
Sun 15th Susan Darby, Joe McCann
& Deceased Family Members
Pat & John Gordon

Diocesan Safeguarding:

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329

Email: safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

SVP contact numbers:

Dromara 077 3883 8191

Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Dromara Finnis St Vincent de Paul

Volunteers urgently required to keep support operating in the parish.

To find out more about SVdP please phone 077 3883 8191 or speak to any SVdP volunteer.

Dromara Collectors

Sept Alex Brennan & John Dinniece

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £705 £929

Thank you for continuing to support your parish

First Communion 2025

Any child who is not at a local primary school but who wishes to take part in the *Do This In Memory* programme is welcome to do so. Please ask for the material.

Altar Servers

Any person who wishes to serve, please ask for a volunteer form. If any Server wishes to stop serving, please let me know.

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Oisín Matthew Mooney
and Rossa Gerard McAnulty

Congratulations to Conor Gregory and Isabel Stacey who were married recently

Vocations News

As students return to College at this time of year, please keep our diocesan students for the priesthood in your prayers.

Anthony Moffett, Dromore Parish, is undertaking hospital chaplaincy training in Cork, while **Philip McParland**, Newry Parish, is beginning second year in Maynooth.

Meanwhile we are delighted that **Mark McDonnell**, Saval Parish, will be travelling to Valladolid, Spain, as a new seminarian to begin propaedeutic (*preparatory*) studies.

We pray for them and for more vocations to priesthood in our diocese.

For more information or guidance if you think you could be called to be a priest, please contact our vocation director,

Fr Brian Fitzpatrick, 028 3834 1901
pp.moyraverty.seagoe@gmail.com

Newcastle Comhaltas

Traditional Music Classes Registration Evening

Thur 12th Sept, 7-8.30pm,

The Lodge, Castlewellan. Must be primary 3 & up. Adult members also welcome.

Pilgrimage for Parents to Knock Shrine

Sat 7th & Sun 8th Dec. Cost £145

Contact Frances at:

youthdirector@dromorediocese.org

Closing Date 24th Sept

Sunday Message

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 8 September 2024 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

JESUS HEALS THE DEAF MAN

MK 7: 31-37



Our attention today is drawn to the second reading, which criticises the treatment of the rich man who enters the synagogue, compared to the poor man who enters the exact same time. The temptation is to look at the gold ring and the fine clothes and to give him the best seat in the house.

The poor man is filthy and is told to stand somewhere out of the way or even sit on the floor. This reading nicely links in with last Sunday's Gospel reading, where the poor man is looked upon as defiled or unclean, and therefore unworthy of God's attention. This beautiful reading from James, places the poor man at the centre of the temple, for those who are poor in the eyes of the world have been chosen by God to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom God promised to those who love him. Once again, we have a teaching that promotes equality and gets rid of division.

We move then into the Gospel reading where the same teaching abides. Jesus is face to face with a deaf man who has a speech impediment. Since the man is a Gentile, he is regarded by orthodox Jews as unclean or unworthy. Jesus cures his deafness and his stutter. The crowd note that the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: 'the ears of the deaf are unsealed ... and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.' ■

LEARN

In opening the man's ears and mouth, Christ is foreshadowing His call for all humankind to hear the Word and respond in faith. (Pope Benedict, 2012)

DO

As a parish community, let us begin to reflect how we practice hospitality to the stranger. What ministries are in place to reach out to the newcomer?

SAY

Loving Father, touch me now with your healing hands, for I believe that your will is for me to be well in mind, body, soul and spirit.
(Padre Pio)

REFLECT

It could well be that Jesus Christ came on earth to say only this one word, Ephphatha; it is certainly being said to each one of us who hear God's Word today. This word from Aramaic, can be translated as follows: Be open wide: open to everything, with everything, for everything. Don't be blind, don't be deaf, don't be dumb. Sharpen every one of your senses to experience the world as it is, in all its glory.

So let us listen and be challenged by these words from Max Warren (1963):

Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we find ourselves treading on another's dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival. We have to try to sit where they sit, to enter sympathetically into the pains and griefs and joys of their history and see how those pains and griefs and joys have determined the premises of their argument. We have, in a word, to be 'present' with them.

In telling us to be open, Christ enters our world and our lives, sitting with us sympathetically. In this encounter, we see God for what he truly is. Loving and compassionate. ■