

Stu(ck)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.

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS



Lots of small things are happening out there that are enabling the kingdom of God to grow.

Their future doesn't look very promising. After all, Jesus and his followers are just a small group of people in a small little corner of Palestine, with few friends among the religious leaders and those in authority, and with a message that doesn't seem to be reaching very far.

So Jesus tries to get the disciples to imagine what the kingdom of God will be like. He uses images, little stories or parables, to paint a picture of God's kingdom and its future growth.

His listeners know that the mustard seed is tiny, yet Jesus tells them that from the smallest of seeds comes a tree so large that birds can nest in it. The kingdom of God is like that mustard seed, he says.

A second image makes the same point. The kingdom of God is like the yeast a woman mixes in with flour. A small amount of yeast has a huge effect - it can produce bread for a lot of people. The kingdom of God is like yeast, Jesus tells them.

The message is clear: The kingdom of God may have small, unimpressive beginnings, but like the mustard seed and the yeast, it will grow into something big and have an effect out of all proportion to its humble start.

COVID 19

These are challenging times for the Church in the West. We know the statistics; we can see with our own eyes how church attendance is falling even as the average age of priests and religious is increasing. The covid 19 lockdowns of the last 18 months have made matters worse. It is easy to feel down and demoralised.

It can seem like the yeast has lost its power, that the mustard seed is desiccating. We can be tempted to think that the promise Jesus made is not being fulfilled,

and that, far from expanding, the kingdom of God is contracting and even dying.

That is why it's so important to hold fast to the promise Jesus made to his disciples, and that he makes to us too. Jesus assures us that the kingdom of God will flourish because it is God's will that it flourishes. And we are called to trust in Jesus. We trust in Jesus by putting our trust in small things and in God's grace.

The Holy Spirit is alive and active. Lots of small things are happening out there that are enabling the kingdom to grow. Many Catholics are looking seriously at what it means to be Church. They know the Church isn't made up just of bishops, priests and religious but of all the People of God. They are thinking about what needs to be done to help promote renewal and new life in the Church, how they can be a seed or a leaven in the lives of others and of their parish community. Just as the kingdom of God grew out of small things, they know that the little things we do, the little acts of love we show, even if they appear insignificant in isolation, can grow into something wonderful.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Think about those who have been a seed, a leaven, in your life, those family members or others who shaped and inspired you to become the person you are. How can you be a seed, a leaven, in the lives of others in these challenging times?

Think about those who feel excluded from or hurt by the Church. How can you be a mustard seed, a gram of yeast, in their lives that transforms and heals and builds up? What might you need to change in your thinking so as to help bring about real growth and transformation in the Church? ■



Today's readings

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Ezek 17:22-24
2 Cor 10:6-10
Mk 4:26-34

Today's Gospel contains two parables about seeds. The Parable of the Seed Growing Secretly stresses the mysterious growth of the seed that is beyond human control. The point of the parable is that once the seed is sown, the farmer lets it be and trusts the soil to bring about growth, even though he doesn't understand the process. Jesus has sown the seeds of his word. We cannot speed up or slow down the coming of the Kingdom. But its plentiful harvest will take place, if we trust in God.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed deals with the apparent insignificance of the Kingdom of God in the present time. The small seed turns into a great tree in which the birds of heaven build their nests. The message of the parable is that all kinds of faithful people will find a home in the Kingdom and God will protect them. They should not be disheartened by the Kingdom's humble beginnings.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 13th June 2021

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 12th Arthur Burns

Gargory

Sun 13th Seamus Gribben

Sun 20th Noel King

Leitrim

Wed 16th Hugh James and Mary Murray

Sat 19th Bernadette Savage

Bernard Cunningham and John Blaney

Dromara

Fri 18th Mary and James McKay

Recently deceased

Fr Tony Corr, PP, Parishes of Aghaderg and Donaghmore

Janet Rice, Belfast

Maureen McGrillen, Bridge Road, Dromara

Leitrim Cleaners Fri 18th – Geraldine's Team

Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and need a helping hand?

Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427

Collections 6th Jun

	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Priest</u>
Dromara	£491	£870
Drumgooland	£1197	£1514

We welcome into Dromara Parish rose Gilmore and into Drumgooland Parish Desmond Doyle

Congratulations to James McCann and Catriona Noone and to Sean McEvoy and Aishling Mullin who were married recently

Congratulations to the P4 children of St Michael's P.S., Finnis, who celebrated their First Holy Communion last Saturday

Lourdes 59 Club Winners

24th April No. 1 - Number Available

1st May No. 14 C & M Doyle

8th May No. 15 Patsy Ward

15th May No. 50 John McKay

22nd May No. 7 Owen Kelly

29th May No. 44 Lorraine Rice

5th June No. 17 Rooney Family

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

On Mon 14th June at 7:30pm the Society will host an online talk by Anthony Russell entitled "*John Mitchel – Less revolutionary than the average English shopkeeper*"

Access to the talk 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 on Mon June 14th

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

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 preceding 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.

Retreat

I will be on Retreat from Sun 20th to Sat 26th Jun.