

I don't know about you, but when I'm going through the mill and life seems to be dragging me down with no seeming end in sight, having someone tell me to "take heart" could come across as somewhat trivial. On the surface, the message to simply "take heart" appears inadequate. So, let's look beneath the surface.

## TAKE HEART IN JESUS

When Jesus tells us to take heart, notice the words he uses. He does not say "have heart" (as if it is something we already possess) but "take heart" (because it is something we can choose to do).

When the paralysed man's friends brought him to Jesus to be healed, they realised that the end to what their friend was going through was not in their hands, but in someone else's, and so they brought him to Jesus. When the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years approached Jesus, she had already tried everything else and all else had failed. So, she chose to go into the crowds and reach out to Jesus. The woman took heart in Jesus.

## BE ENCOURAGED

When Jesus tells us to take heart, he is telling us to be encouraged, to have hope, and not to give up. In both these instances above, you and I are being encouraged not to look inward, but to look outward and to see outside ourselves. We are being encouraged to turn our gaze toward Jesus as the source of our hope.

Elsewhere, the phrase used is "take courage".

Jesus reminds us that nothing is impossible to God, and nothing can come between us and the love of God. Nothing. When we trust God, even if life seems overwhelming, we are living in faith and in hope. Jesus calls us 'son' and calls us 'daughter'; reminding us of how personal our relationship with God is. When Jesus tells us to take heart, he speaks into our tired hearts and draws them to turn to him. He is the source of our reassurance.

## HOW DO WE DO IT?

How do we turn to Jesus and take heart? The first step is to make the choice to take heart. To decide not to give up, but to look outward towards God – which leads us to the second step.

Pray. Just because we have trials and difficulties in life, that doesn't mean we have to give in to them. We can choose to pray and to keep praying regardless of what happens. In prayer, ask God to reveal his presence to you and to give you what you need to get through whatever it is that is causing you to feel disheartened.

Finally, choose to trust God. This isn't as easy as it sounds. How many of us say we trust God completely, but then try to make sure we have a Plan B up our sleeves 'just in case!' And how many of us when we say we trust God, really mean that we are hoping he will make things work out the way we would like him to? When I say the final step in taking heart is to trust God, what I mean is that we are to believe that no matter what happens around us, God is in control, and he never leaves us to face our troubles alone. So don't despair, don't give up hope.

Take heart son. Take heart daughter. ■



## Today's readings

Acts 2:1-11  
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13  
[or Gal 5:16-25]  
John 20: 19-23  
[or John 15:26-27;  
16:12-15]

St Luke's account of the day of Pentecost reading is very rich. That extraordinary list of nationalities that deserves to be counted: "(1) Parthians, (2) Medes and (3) Elamites; (4) people from Mesopotamia, (5) Judaea and (6) Cappadocia, (7) Pontus and (8) Asia, (9) Phrygia and (10) Pamphylia, (11) Egypt and (12) the parts of Libya round Cyrene; (13) residents of Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – (14) Cretans and (15) Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God" (Acts 2:9-11). We probably would not know where most of them are today, but there are actually 15 countries in that list stretching from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. For Luke, Pentecost is 'Mission Sunday' – the day in which we remember that the Good News is meant to transform the world.

In one of my favorite novels, *The Diary of a Country Priest*, an experienced older priest tells the nervous young curate that "the Gospel is meant to be the light of the world, we have turned it into a bedside lamp for Christians". We risk doing the same so that is why we need Pentecost every year.

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

# Stu(ck)space

## SERIES: JUST THREE WORDS

Season colour: **RED**

In this series, **Clare Gilmore** explores the sheer depth contained in 'just three words'.



# TAKE HEART SON/DAUGHTER

Have you ever felt discouraged? Weary? Tired? Despondent? Ready to give up? You are not alone. These feelings are normal and describe something of what it's like to lose heart. They are normal human emotions that can sweep over the best of us from time to time, and it's so easy for it to happen. It's so easy to lose heart – in people, in situations, in ourselves, in our abilities. And when we do, Jesus has three simple but powerful words for us: "Take heart son/daughter" (Mt 9:2; Mt 9:22).



# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Pentecost Sunday – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

### Anniversary Masses

#### Leitrim

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Nora McEvoy  
Jim McAnulty (Backaderry) and  
Deceased Family Relatives  
Deceased Members of McElroy and  
McAleenan Families

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Betty Fegan  
Joe and Agnes McEvoy

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Philomena and Owen Rice

#### Gargory

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Denis and Roseann O'Prey  
Annie Moorehead

#### Dechomet

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> William and Elizabeth Burns

#### Dromara

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Arthur and Frances McCann  
Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Barney and Kathleen O'Hare  
Seamus and Cecilia McCullough  
Nuala Davies  
Jerome Fitzsimmons  
Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Vincent and Desmond O'Hare  
Rosie Williams  
Kevin O'Hare

### Cemetery Service

There will be an online service broadcast on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 12 noon. The graves will be blessed at a different time. May I suggest that people place memory cards or a list of the names of their loved ones who have died, before them as a prayer space.

### Collections

	<u>Parish</u>
Dromara	£434
Drumgooland	£650

### Trócaire

Please return your donations as soon as possible. Trócaire will receive matched funding for your donations. This must be forwarded by the end of May.

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish  
Ollie Heaton

### GiftAid

Please return the letters which you have received. Thank you to those who have done so. There are over 100 replies still to come in. Please return the form in the stamped addressed envelope or reply by email.

### Thefts from cars

Do not leave bags or valuables visible in your car, church and cemetery. Car parks here have experienced break-ins recently.

### Leitrim Cleaners

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May – Bridie's Team

### 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

### Confirmation

Congratulations to the 40 children who were confirmed this week.

### Statue at Dechomet

The statue of Our Lady will be blessed after mass on Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May (Feast of the Visitation) if the weather permits. This short service will hopefully be streamed as well. The statue is to acknowledge the babies who were buried at the mound and other parts of the cemetery without proper recognition.

### Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

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