

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 028 4065 0207 Emergency Tel: 07969 403762
Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradgooland.org

28th Sunday in ordinary time
12th October 2025

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 11th Bernard McElroy
Eileen Fitzpatrick
Mon 13th William & Elizabeth Burns
Sat 18th Michelle Doyle

Leitrim

Sat 11th **Mary Jo Malone MM**
Rory Savage
Wed 15th Willie McCartan (*Ballymaginthy*)
Matt & Kathleen Ward & Deceased
Family Members
Sat 18th Mary, Jimmy, John & Bel Malone
Marc McAnulty

Dromara

Fri 17th Seamus Braniff
Sun 19th Edward McBride
Peter, Catherine, Peter & James McKenny

The **Rosary** will be prayed at the **Windy Gap**
on **Sat 24th Oct at 8pm sharp**

November Masses for Recently Deceased

Mon 3rd Dechomet
Wed 5th Leitrim
Fri 7th Finnis
All at 7:30pm

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329

safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Collections

Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £531 £1,253

Thank you for your continued contributions

Evora Hospice

Thank you to all who gave so generously last week.
£1,061 was collected. If anyone wishes to make a donation, please put it in an envelope marked 'Hospice' and place it on the collection basket.

Leitrim Cemetery

The work has begun. There is no vehicular access allowed when the work is being done, please respect the workers and allow them to get the project completed.

Do This in Memory

The First Communion preparation programme continues on **19th / 20th Oct.**
The children are asked to bring rosary beads which will be blessed at mass.
Anyone who wants to have their beads blessed, please bring them to mass.

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will meet on Weds every fortnight in Immaculate Conception
Next meeting **Wed 22nd 7pm**

Peter Morgan's Cottage:

Wed 22nd Oct 7:30pm with Trevor Martin,
Learn how to Research Your Family History
(£10 Suggested Donation)

We welcome into Drumgooland Parish

*Isal Rose Sharpe
and Mikah Míla McCabe*

*Many Happy Returns to Maureen Boyd who
celebrated her 90th Birthday recently.*

*Unfortunately, we are still unable to
upload the Bulletin & the Sunday Message
to the Parish website.*

*We are hoping to resolve this very soon.
Apologies for the inconvenience.*

Sunday Message

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 12 October 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



IN FROM THE COLD LK 17:11-19

Today's Gospel is the famous story about the cleansing of lepers. Leprosy is the name the Bible gives to many forms of skin disease, and not necessarily to the medical condition known today as leprosy, which is more accurately called Hansen's Disease.

The Bible has detailed rules (especially in the Book of Leviticus) for detecting such skin diseases. It treats them not just as a medical condition but as one that also carries a degree of religious impurity. Ancient medical knowledge was very limited, and sickness usually carried a religious as well as a physical significance. That is why the Bible gives a priest responsibility for assessing the degree of contagion and whether it is a serious case and, finally, certifying that the sufferer is cured.

It's possible that these 10 victims are living together in a kind of settlement set aside for people like them, a kind of leprosarium. They observe the rules of avoiding contact with other people, but instead of calling out that they are 'unclean,' as the Law requires, they ask Jesus to take pity on them. He tells them to go to the priests responsible for assessing their skin condition. On the way, they realise that their skin has suddenly improved.

It is here we discover the point of this story. Nine of those who have been cured continue their journey, eager to meet their loved ones and get back into the flow of everyday life. Who would blame them? But one acts differently – the Samaritan who returns to throw himself in gratitude at Jesus' feet. Jesus recognises that it is a foreigner who has returned to give thanks. His final words to the Samaritan – "Stand up and go on your way, your faith has saved you" – are a reminder that the Gospel's message of salvation will eventually come to the Samaritans also. Jesus has demonstrated once more, as he did in the story of the Good Samaritan, how open these people are to receiving the good news of salvation. ■

SAY

"I thank you, Lord, for all you have given me. Help me always to have a grateful heart."

DO

Visit a loved one who lives alone or in a nursing home and bring them some of the 'ease' and comfort of the healing presence of Jesus.

PRAY

When the Samaritan returns to Jesus to say thanks, Jesus tells him that it is his faith that has made him well. Because the Samaritan believed, he was restored to health. Ask the Lord to increase your faith.

LEARN

Christians are people with grateful hearts

Thankfulness is actively acknowledging what God and others do for us and articulating it, making sure to let them know



REFLECT

We are all very painfully aware now of what it's like to be physically cut off from others. During the Covid pandemic, we all had to practise social distancing to keep ourselves safe and prevent the highly contagious illness from spreading. It was a stressful time, especially for those living alone and older people cut off from their families. Despite the advances in communications technology which enabled people to stay connected and to see each other on FaceTime or Zoom, people felt the pain of isolation. They felt the absence of physical contact – a handshake, hug, kiss, an embrace, a shoulder to cry on, the physical expression of intimacy we need in order to flourish and grow. People experienced what social scientists call 'skin hunger,' touch deprivation. Experts say skin hunger is a major factor in incidents of depression among humans. All of us who were physically cut off from loved ones

during the Covid lockdown know exactly what they mean by skin hunger.

It gives us a good idea of what life was like for the lepers in today's Gospel. If you look at the word 'disease,' you'll notice it is made up of two parts: 'dis-', which usually means that something is out of place, e.g. disorder or dislocated, and 'ease' or comfort. To suffer from 'disease' in this sense is something worse than just being sick.

The lepers had to practise social distancing. They were removed from their families and from the rest of society. They suffered not only from their skin condition but also from skin hunger. No wonder they pleaded with Jesus to help them. No wonder that, after being healed, nine of them were so excited they forgot to thank Jesus for restoring their lives and their families to them.

All the healing stories of Jesus bring out this point: that he overcomes 'dis-ease' -

the distancing of suffering people from the community where they should be loved and cherished - every bit as much as he overcomes physical illness.

It's a lesson for how we should treat the sick and the isolated. It is not easy to be old or sick today. We live in a youth- and beauty-obsessed culture, the world of 'Instagram-face,' that promotes unrealistic, filtered versions of people. In this world of glamour and the influencer, of diets and workouts, of bronzed bodies and chiseled looks, the old, sick, and disabled can be overlooked, excluded, isolated from public view, forgotten. Some people refuse to visit hospitals or nursing homes because it's too distressing. There is an impulse to dodge the reality of illness, decay, and old age.

Jesus excluded nobody from his love and attention. He cared especially for the marginalised and discarded ones. He wants us to do likewise. ■