

## Sacrament of MARRIAGE

### REJECTING MARRIAGE

A wedding is not a marriage!

Many people today reject the idea of marriage as a life-long commitment or they declare it's not even worth bothering about. As a result, the 'wedding day', when it does happen, has become very disconnected from how we might understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Marriage.

Celebrity lifestyles in particular reinforce the idea that the relationship between two people is sealed by a glorious party, surrounded by numerous famous guests, with a rich banquet and well-known artists performing. This is then followed by a luxurious honeymoon in some exotic location.

### STYLE OVER SUBSTANCE

Of course this is a stereotypical depiction and it's not true of all celebrities, but it's what some sectors of the media would have us believe. Reporting on these events rarely, if ever, comments on the ceremony itself.

If it happens to take place in a church the words expressed, the hymns sung, the homily preached all pale into insignificance in favour of a description of the dress worn, the ring produced or the guests present.

What isn't reflected is the serious nature of marriage, the life-long commitment being made between two people, the expression of beginning a journey together.

### SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE

In Brazil for World Youth Day 2013, Pope Francis was very keen to speak on marriage and to encourage young people to go against those voices which claim that marriage is an outdated idea.

He went as far as to tell them to be 'revolutionaries' and 'swim against the tide' of those who see everything as temporary and transient.

He shared his belief of how "men and women, courageous enough to carry this treasure in the 'earthen vessels' of our humanity, are an essential resource for the Church, as well as for the whole world!"

### A CHALLENGING JOURNEY

A wedding might be decorative and beautiful but it's not a marriage.

The Sacrament of Marriage is two people setting

out on a journey together not knowing what the future might hold; walking together, hand in hand, having vowed to love and to honour, have and to hold, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health 'til death do us part.

The grace which is given in the sacrament enables a couple to stay strong and committed to all that they've promised one another. To stay true to one another in a marriage takes courage and strength, which is why the sacrament is so important.

Praying together in front of and with the whole community gives the couple the grace they'll need for the long journey they're embarking on, without which it would be very difficult, perhaps impossible.

### A BOND WITH GOD

Marriage in its deepest sense is a vocation that comes from God. It's at the heart of God's plan that we live in communion with one another.

When a couple celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage they witness to God. God is mirrored in them, man and woman joined together. God makes the two people one single life, one flesh.

The great mystery of marriage is the beautiful truth that the love of God is reflected in the couple who come together. It's this bond with God, strengthened through prayer for each other, that's so important when couples face hard times in a marriage – which they will, for no marriage is without its struggles.

Every marriage that witnesses to this love of God, is by its very nature grace-filled and the family that may grow from it becomes the heart of new evangelisation, as faith is nurtured and passed onto the next generation. ■

8 November 2015 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

# St. Space

## Sacrament of MARRIAGE

continued on back page

Season colour: **GREEN**

SERIES: Life in Christ

In this series, **Sarah Adams** explores the beauty and significance of the sacraments and rites that mark our journey of faith and strengthen our ever-growing relationship with God

Today's readings:  
1 Kgs 17:10-16  
Ps 145:7-10  
Heb 9:24-28  
Mk 12:38-44



# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207    Emergency Tel: 079 69403762    Email: dromaradgooland@aol.co.uk

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### Sunday Mass times

Dechomet – Sat evening 6pm  
Leitrim – Sat evening 7.30pm  
Gargory – Sun morning 8.30am  
Leitrim – Sun morning 9.30am  
Dromara – Sun morning 11am

### Masses this week

Mon 9.00am Leitrim  
Mon 7.30pm Dechomet  
Tues 9.00am Dromara  
Wed 7.30pm Leitrim  
Fri 7.30pm Dromara Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament will run until 8.30pm each Friday.

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 11am – Pearse Gilmore  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 6pm – John Behan  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> – Michelle Doyle (MM)

#### Leitrim

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> – Deceased Members of Laitroim Fontenoy's;  
Deceased Members of McCartan Family  
(Ballydrummond); James O'Rourke  
Sun 8<sup>th</sup> – John Joe Malone; Pauline Kelly  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> – Pat and Bridie Keown; Hugh and Sarah  
McAnulty  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> – Kieran McCrickard; Rita O'Hare; Bernard J and  
Mary J Cunningham; Michael Cowan

#### Dromara

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> – Deceased Members of Murray Family,  
Legananny  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> – Mary McEvoy and Bridget Gorman; Michael  
and Alice Doyle

#### Gargory

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> – Antoniette Jennings (MM)  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> – Bell Malone

### Offerings

	Parish 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Priest
Drumgooland	£850	£1,401
Dromara	£460	£621
Parish Hall – Whist	£495	
Parish Hall – donation	£20	

**We welcome** in the Parish of Drumgooland Tomás  
Patrick McCartan and Cara Liana Smyth

**Ladies Night** Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Nov in Leitrim Community  
Playgroup. Please come along to support your local  
playgroup and pick up a Christmas gift from a local  
business. £3 entry. Starts 7.30pm

**Playgroup Registration** If you have a child who turns 3  
on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2016 please call in to Leitrim  
Community Playgroup and collect a registration form.

**NI Blood Transfusion Service** Blood donation sessions  
will be held in St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan  
on Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2.45pm-4.15pm and 5.30pm-8.00pm

**Annual Pioneer Retreat at Dromintine** Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov  
starting 10am, Mass at 3.30pm. £20. Please contact  
Vera McGahan (tel. 30262696) before Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

### Parish Draw winners

£200 Barney O'Hare; £100 Charlie Keown;  
£50 Maura Allen; Mickey Brannigan; Hugh Smyth;  
Conor McElroy; £25 Roisin Doyle  
Next draw Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Dec after mass in Parochial House  
Thanks to all who have supported the draw, three  
months left in the draw.

**St Michael's P.S. Finnis**, Open Day Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov,  
10.30am – 2.30pm. ALSO Clothes for the Recycling  
Bin can be left in the school until the work at the front  
is completed.

**Dromara Parish Council** meeting Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Nov at  
8pm in Leitrim Parochial House.

**Dechomet Altar Society** will meet on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Nov  
after 7.30pm Mass. The church will be cleaned and  
arrangements for Dec church preparations discussed.

**Dromara Hall/School Lane** The work should be  
finished early this week. Please drive slowly when  
using the lane, 5 mph is recommended.

**Parish Website** is due to go live very soon, it needs  
your information, please forward anything of interest  
about your society, history, useful information.

**Pope John Paul II Award** Young people who have  
completed their GCSE's (16/17 year olds) are invited  
to sign up for the JP2 Award. Young people and  
parents should attend a meeting and complete  
registration forms on Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7.30pm in the  
Parochial House - if you have not signed up but want  
to know more, please come along.

**Monastic Experience Weekend** (men 18-40) with the  
Benedictine Monks, Rostrevor, Fri 20<sup>th</sup> – Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Nov. Further info from Br Thierry, tel. 4173 9979.

**Child Safeguarding Awareness Training** Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Nov at 7pm in Fontenoy Hall, the session will last one  
hour. All church volunteers, readers, collectors,  
Eucharistic ministers, choir, church cleaners must  
attend one session. If you have not already attended  
please come on this date.

**Diary Date** Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Dec Drumgooland Parish Fund-  
raiser, an Evening of Music & Song, details to follow.

### St Vincent de Paul Helplines

Drumgooland 077 3883 7895 / 079 7981 5269  
Dromara 077 3883 8191