

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Live Streaming of Masses <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiTLQJ1tek5IHBTdkMR6ptw>

Fifth Sunday of Easter 3rd May 2026

Weekend Masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet 7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory 11:00am Dromara

Weekday Masses

Mon 9am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

I will be on Retreat Mon 1st to Wed 10th Jun

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 2nd Paddy & Phil Turley
Nicholas Doyle

Sat 9th Susan Greeran

Leitrim

Sat 2nd Clare McCrickard
Esther & James O'Rourke

Sat 9th Winnie McCrickard
Brendan McElroy
Tommy & Joe Bannon

Gargory

Sun 3rd John Donnelly

Dromara

Sun 10th John & Mary Drake

Cemetery Sunday 24th May

Gargory after 9am mass, Dromara 12 noon,
Leitrim 3pm, Dechomet 5pm

The day works well if many people step forward to help with parking, facilitating cars onto and off the roads as well as collecting. Please offer your help. Thank you to all who turn up yearly to volunteer.

May Rotas

Gargory Altar Society - Rita & Angela
Leitrim Cleaners - Patricia, Tina, Nadine & Anne

SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191 / Drumgooland 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329

safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

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Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £ 594 £1,247

Thank you for your continued contributions

The sick and housebound will be attended this week

First Holy Communion

St Mary's Sat 9th May 10am Dechomet
St Matthew's Sat 9th May 12noon Gargory
St Michael's Sat 16th May 11am Finnis

There will be an **Open Meeting** of all **St Michael's Hall** users on **Mon 18th May** at 8pm in the Hall. The aim of the meeting is to form a Hall Committee. The Hall is a major asset, people may have ideas on how to improve usage, how the various users can collaborate and what repairs are needed. Please come along.

Please hand in your **Trócaire donations** by **Sun 17th May**. Any donations received after that date will be forwarded to Trócaire later in the year.

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Fintan Hugh Cunningham*

Dromore Diocese Youth com, in partnership with Knockshrine, have **volunteering opportunities** for young people over the summer months. All interested are invited with a parent/guardian to a meeting on **Fri 8th May 6:30pm** in Meeting Rooms, Dromore Rd, Banbridge, beside St Patrick's Church.

CountryFIT Dance Classes are now running every Mon night in the Anglers Rest from 8pm. *Learn to jive, waltz, line dance & more in a welcoming environment.* Beginners welcome. No partner required. Pay on the door £8pp. Get fit and learn a new skill. For more information contact Maeve on 07541848672

Irish Dancing Classes starting in St Michael's Hall, on **Wed 6th May**, 6:30pm-7:30pm. These classes are run by the **Clann na Rinceoirí School of Irish Dancing** and are suitable for children from age 3 upwards. Everyone is very welcome to come along and give it a try! For further information, please contact Patricia on 07789757774

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 3 May 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1

NO NEED TO BE AFRAID

JOHN 14:1-12



Today's Gospel is taken from the last great discourse in John's Gospel, known as the Farewell Discourse, and is Jesus' final teaching to his disciples at the Last Supper.

Jesus looks to the future. He comforts those he is leaving behind. They are to trust in God as he did. They will all be reunited in the Father's house. In ancient times, when a group of travellers needed accommodation for the night, they often sent one of their number ahead to reserve a place in the Inn. Jesus comforts his disciples by telling them that the accommodation in the Father's house is more luxurious than that of a rough and ready Inn. It has many rooms, so they shouldn't worry about being refused entry. Jesus will return when the place is prepared to take them with him.

Some of the disciples are puzzled. If they don't know where Jesus is going, Thomas asks, how will they find the way? Jesus replies with one of the great 'I AM' sayings: 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one can come to the Father except through me.' Just as he is the gate that offers protection and freedom of movement for his flock to the pastures of eternal life, he is also the way to God. To know Jesus is to know the Father. To follow his way and know his truth is to receive eternal life. ■

REFLECT

There is much talk about truth these days. We hear about fake news and deliberate misinformation and the efforts of online bots and trolls to mislead and confuse people. Some politicians dismiss any uncomfortable facts or stories they don't like as 'fake news.' The advent of Artificial Intelligence technologies will make it even more difficult to distinguish what is genuine from what is not. We won't be sure if a video of a politician making an inflammatory statement or purporting to show someone in a compromising position is real or is 'deep fake.' We will need to be constantly on our guard because it will be increasingly difficult to separate what is true from what is false.

For us Christians, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Follow his way and we will never be led astray. For us Christians, the highest form of truth is love of God and humankind; for whenever love is realised, God is present.

Pope Francis told a general audience in Rome in 2018 that 'truth is not spoken so much with a speech. It is a way of being, a way of living, and you see it in every single word.' Theologian Fr Tomas Halik says Jesus wasn't interested in how much of the Jewish law people knew but only in whether they kept the law of love. 'If you hold to my teaching,' Jesus told his followers, 'then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' Follow Jesus' teaching by living a life of love, and we will live lives that are true.

This is what Alexei Navalny tried to do. A human rights lawyer and one of Vladimir Putin's most prominent opponents, Alexei grew up an atheist in the old communist Soviet Union but became a Christian. He was inspired especially by the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, and the beatitude, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right. Alexei hungered for what is right and it became his motivation. In prison he decided to learn off

DO

There is so much fake news on social media nowadays. Think about how you consume news. Are you easily misled or misinformed? How might you better protect yourself and your loved ones from fake news and deliberate distortion?

PRAY

Today's Gospel is popular at funerals. Pray for your deceased loved ones, that they may enjoy eternal life in the Father's house.

SAY

"Lord, help me to follow your way, live your truth, and model my life on yours. Amen."

LEARN

If we want to know what God is like, we need look no further than Jesus

Jesus shows us the way to salvation

God has made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood

For Christians, the highest form of truth is love of God and humankind

by heart all 111 verses of the Sermon on the Mount and to do so in four languages, Russian, French, English and Latin. He wanted to imprint God's word on his heart.

Alexei endured years of intimidation, imprisonment, and brutality because of his commitment to justice and truth. He died mysteriously in prison in the Arctic circle on 16 February 2024, aged 48, because the Putin regime was afraid of him.

Here was a man who believed in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and witnessed to it, even at the cost of his freedom and of his life. He knew that the highest form of truth is love of God and neighbour.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Know his truth, follow his lead, live his way, and we will enjoy life in the heavenly kingdom. No fake news or deliberate misinformation will ever derail our path. ■