

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

17th Sunday in ordinary time
27th July 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

We pray for our recently deceased



Martin Owens, Leitrim

ANNIVERSARIES

Leitrim

Sat 26th Winnie, Barney & Shane Owens
Sat 2nd Hugh Morgan
Patrick O'Hare

Gargory

Sun 27th Mick McGreevy

Dromara

Sun 27th Hugh Pat McEvoy (*Artana*)
Edward, Catherine, Eamon &
Shiela Lundy (*Muninabane*)
Sun 3rd Harry McNeill

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329

safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Safeguarding Officer

Kate Mooney 079 5198 1888

kmoooney@aracoeli.com

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £463 £529

Thank you for your continued contributions

Feast Day of St Anne Sat 26th July

St Anne, in Christian tradition, is the mother of the Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus. She is not mentioned in the canonical gospels, but her story is found in apocryphal texts like the Protevangelium of James.

St Anne is the patron saint of Canada and is celebrated as a patron saint of various groups, including grandparents, mothers, and women in labour.

Her feast day is shared with her husband, St Joachim.

Prayer for Grandparents

Lord Jesus,
help families and society to value the presence and roles of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them.

Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end.

Amen.

St Michael's Collectors

Aug - Alex & Declan

Gargory Altar Society

Aug - Marian

Sunday Message

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 27 July 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



SAY A LITTLE PRAYER

LK 11:1-13

Throughout his Gospel, Luke devotes a lot of time to the prayer of Jesus. He presents Jesus as the best model of how to pray as well as a teacher of prayer. Today's Gospel combines both of these aspects: when the disciples see Jesus at prayer, they ask him to teach them how to pray.

Jesus responds first by teaching them a form of prayer. For those of us used to the Our Father, Luke's words might seem unusual. The church has taken its official form of the Lord's Prayer from St Matthew's version. The differences are not great. Matthew's version is longer than Luke's and more polished. Luke's may be closer to what Jesus originally taught the disciples.

The prayer is followed by a parable about a neighbour who refuses to take no for an answer. A couple of details about houses in the Galilean countryside at the time of Jesus might help to make it clearer. The entire family normally spread their sleeping mats on a raised platform at one end of the living room and curled up for a night's sleep close to one another. (Only the rich could afford separate bedrooms.) When bedtime came, the one lamp the family owned was extinguished. Lighting it again was a chore. The best one might hope for was that the cooking fire outside the house still had enough embers to kindle it. The door was fastened with a massive wooden bar and the key was an unwieldy object.

A visitor knocking after the family had gone to bed wasn't welcome. Getting up to open the door meant clambering over sleeping children and babies. Opening the door in the dark wasn't easy. One can imagine Jesus' hearers smiling at the stupidity of a neighbour who would cause such chaos. But this man isn't put off. His incessant knocking will waken the children anyway, not to mention any dog or neighbour within earshot. With bad grace, the father hands over the loaf, not for friendship's sake, but just to get rid of him.

The third part of the Gospel uses the parable's key words as an instruction on prayer. Prayer is asking, it is searching; it is, if necessary, banging on the door until God hears you. This homely parable, although true to life, runs the risk of presenting God as a grudging giver, so Jesus adds two little examples of fatherly concern that hark back to the opening word of the prayer, 'Abba' – the intimate name for addressing one's father. Good fathers don't play dangerous games with their children, giving them stones instead of bread or snakes or scorpions for eggs or fish.

The message is clear: if we call God Abba, then God will give us not just what we ask for but will even share the life of his Spirit with us. ■

DO

Distractions are a constant challenge to prayer. When it happens just refocus, and get back on track.

PRAY

Pray for those for whom prayer is difficult or who have given up on God.

REFLECT

In today's first reading, Abraham pleads with God, like a defence counsel before a judge. Abraham isn't afraid to tell God exactly what he wants, to come straight out and say it. He is persistent – and his prayer works. It is clear that Abraham has a deep and intimate friendship with God.

St Teresa of Avila said that prayer should be like a conversation with a friend who knows you even better than you know yourself. How many of us do that? How many of us see God as a companion on the journey through life?

We don't just go to a friend when we want something – to borrow money or the lawnmower. We go to a friend for joy, comfort, companionship, affirmation, advice, love.

We go to our friends because they enrich us and challenge us. And we want to give to them some of what they give to us. They share our hardships with us as well as our joys, and they make us laugh.

They enable us to be our best selves.

All relationships need work if they are to flourish, and it's the same with our relationship with God. How often do you pray? Why do you pray? What might you need to change in order to have the kind of friendly relationship with God that Abraham had? ■

SAY

"Lord, I know you are close to me and that you love me. Thank you for giving me what I need. Amen."

LEARN

Prayer is about our relationship with God

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian way of life

The Christian trusts in the Lord, even when the Lord doesn't seem to answer our prayer or answer as we would wish