

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207 Emergency Tel: 079 69403762

Email: dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org Web: www.dromaradrumgooland.org

4th Sunday of Lent
10th March 2024

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
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Cemetery Sunday 26th May

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 9th Brian, Colm & Sr Josephine Rooney

Leitrim

Sat 9th Patsy, Cissie & Colette McMullan
Barney O'Hare
John McAleenan

Sat 16th Margaret McCrickard
Malachy Savage
Anne Bannon & Denis Bannon
Nolene Hardy

Dromara

Fri 15th Peter & John McNeill
Pearl McEvoy
Sun 17th Mary Hughes

The new **boxes of envelopes** will be available from 23rd/24th Mar.

Thank you to all who give so generously and regularly to the parishes and myself.

Each year there is a decrease in the number of boxes used. If you do not have a box or give by standing order, please consider doing so.

If you wish to give by standing order or wish to have a box of envelopes, please send an email to dromaradrumgooland@dromorediocese.org

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 077 3883 8191
Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Diocesan Safeguarding contact:

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329
Email: safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Collections Dromara Drumgooland
Parish £421 £796

Thank you for continuing to support your parish

Dromara New Cemetery

will be blessed by *Archbishop Eamon Martin* on **Sun 21st Apr**, before 11am mass

Dromara Parish Council Meeting
Mon 11th Mar 8pm

First Confessions

Tues 12th Mar 7pm St Michael's, Finnis

St Patrick's Day



Masses as normal for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning. The Prayers of the mass will be for St Patrick, the Readings for the fifth Sunday of Lent.

Solitude Saturday 23rd Mar

An opportunity to take some time for yourself in the beautiful surroundings of **St. Clare's Convent, Glenvale** to refresh mind and body.

The day begins at 10am and ends at 3.30pm
Refreshments and a light lunch included.

Suggested donation £20

Places limited so early booking essential.
Contact: 028 3083 2828

Bingo

Please join the '**Friends of St Michael's Finnis Parents Group**' on **Sun 24th Mar** for a great afternoon of **Bingo** in the Parish Hall. £100 JACKPOT must go!

Doors open at 2.30pm.

Good fun, refreshments and a great raffle, so please come along and show your support for the school.

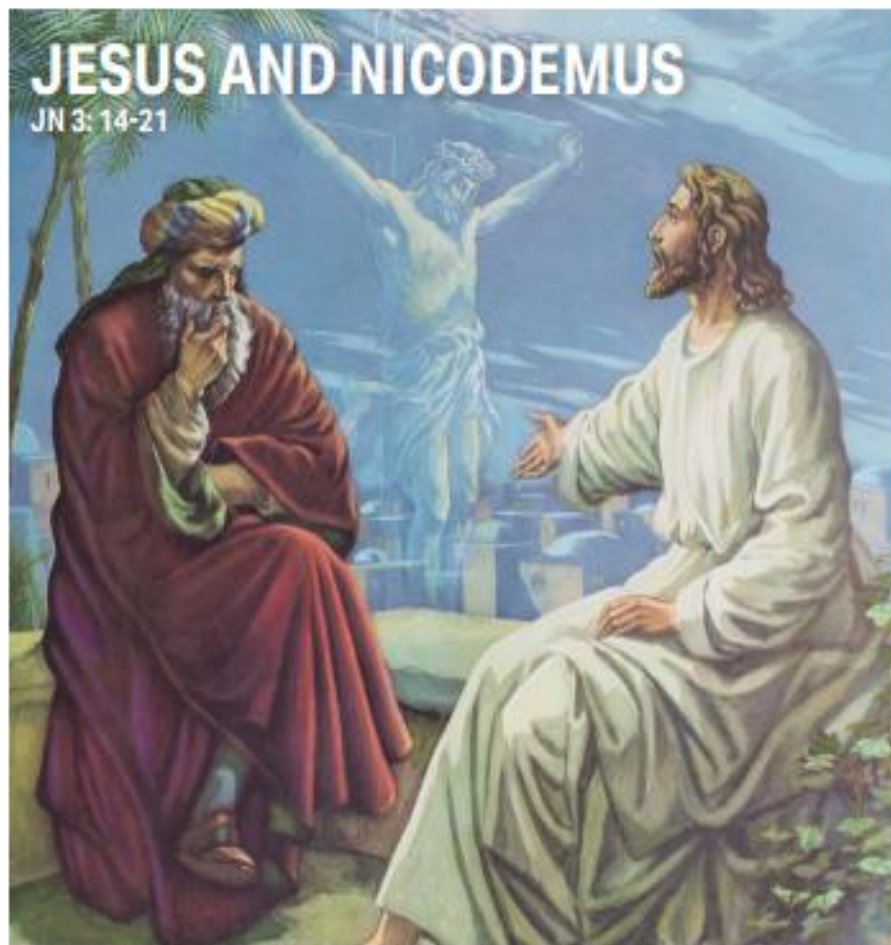
The **Dromara Cancer Research Committee** is running a **Song of Praise Evening** on **Fri 19th Apr** and are looking for volunteers to join the choir! Anyone interested can contact Katrina on 077 9865 5771.

Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE)

THE WORD

Year B • 10 March 2024 • Colour: Rose or Violet • Psalter Week 4



JESUS AND NICODEMUS

JN 3: 14-21

REFLECT

Some people can identify with today's Gospel scene between Jesus and Nicodemus. A personal encounter with Jesus is something people of faith are comfortable talking about. For others, it can be a deeply private encounter and the details of which are not shared with anyone. The encounter can take place under the cloak of darkness surrounded by constellations of stars and a dazzling bright moon. Or in the quietness of one's home or up a mountain with nature. We encounter the loving Christ when surrounded by family or on retreat in a monastery, attending a novena or participating in our sacraments.

Our personal encounter with Jesus can be transformative, like it was for Nicodemus. The light of truth shone upon his inquisitive mind, leading him to a life dedicated to prayer and intimacy with God. Some might say that this is perhaps the goal of the spiritual life. But there is an added dimension to this story. We are told that God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. So that all believers will know that they are loved unconditionally by a God of mercy and compassion. That message from John's Gospel has the power to change our hearts, our minds, and our lives. It changed Nicodemus forever. ■

The context of today's Gospel reading is the famous encounter between Nicodemus and Jesus. Such were the signs being shown by Jesus, a certain amount of curiosity was sweeping across the community.

Nicodemus, a prominent Jew, meets Jesus under the cover of darkness. Jesus the master, sets about instructing his new inquisitive student. Nicodemus appears three times in John's Gospel, and always at night. This is the only time on record that the two of them meet, and the fact that it takes place at night suggests a certain amount of danger associated with this encounter. Some people didn't want to be seen with Jesus, let alone be associated with him. There is also a certain intimacy within this scene as Jesus shares his personal story and mission with a fellow Jew.

He tells Nicodemus that for the salvation of the world, he himself would be lifted up on the cross and lifted up into glory by his resurrection and ascension. The suffering and joy signified by these two images are connected. No cross, no crown. Jesus tells Nicodemus, that if we look at Jesus and believe, then we too can have eternal life. That's the highest life possible. The life of God himself in us. It surrounds every aspect of our lives with peace. Peace with people, peace with life and peace with ourselves.

St. Augustine once said, "God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love." The fact that he gave his only Son to come into this world and die, showed the extent of that love. ■

SAY

Grant me the humility to acknowledge that there are aspects of my spiritual journey that I may not fully comprehend. Open my heart to the guidance of your Spirit.



DO

Life can be very busy. But this week, make a conscious effort to create space and time for prayer. Nicodemus sought Christ out and was transformed.

LEARN

John 3:16 – 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him, shall not perish, but have eternal life.'