

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross* 14<sup>th</sup> September 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*



*Thomas (Tom) Quinn, Kilskeel*

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Leitrim

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>** Mary Catherine & Seamus Doyle  
**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>** Patsy Malone  
Pat McClean & Deceased  
Family Members  
Mena Duggan  
John & Kathleen McMullan  
Owen Kelly & Deceased  
Family Members

#### Gargory

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>** Oliver McEvoy

#### Dromara

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>** Susan Darby, Joe McCann &  
Deceased Family Members  
**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>** Wesley Hunter

#### Dechomet

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>** Mary Rooney

#### Gargory Altar Rota

**Sept** Rita & Angela

#### Leitrim Cleaners

**Sept** Patricia, Tina Nadine & Anne

#### St Michael's Collectors

**Sept** Conor & Noel

#### SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

#### Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329

[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

### Collections

	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£836	£1,700
Priest	£811	£1,882

*Figures include Aug standing orders  
Thank you for your continued contributions*

Dromara Parish Council Meeting **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 8pm**

**The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's**  
reopens **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept**

Whether new or returning, come and join us  
at Mosaic Café, in the Chapel, or the Common  
Room – a place to meet, pray and belong.

For more visit [qubcatholic.org](http://qubcatholic.org)

### **Peter Morgan's Cottage**

Join us for a 2-night course on *How to Research  
Your Family* with Local Historian Trevor Martin  
on **Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Oct & Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct at 7.30pm**

Light Supper Provided.

*Suggested Donation £10 to help with running costs*

Please Note: Next **Trad Music Night Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct**  
Everyone Welcome.

### **Vocations News**

This academic year we have two seminarians  
studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of  
Dromore: Philip McParland (*Newry Parish*),  
beginning his third year of studies, and  
Mark McDonnell (*Saval Parish*) in first year of  
studies, both at St Patrick's College Maynooth.  
Please keep them in your prayers as they seek  
to deepen their relationship with Christ,  
the Good Shepherd. Please also continue to  
encourage and pray for more vocations, that those  
whom God is calling to serve in ministry will have  
the faith and courage to answer positively.

*If you have thoughts or questions about being a priest  
and would like more information or guidance, please  
contact Fr Brian Fitzpatrick on 028 38341901 or  
[pp.moyraverty.seagoe@gmail.com](mailto:pp.moyraverty.seagoe@gmail.com).*

**Could You Help Share the True Spirit of Christmas?**

Each year, volunteers set up a small stall after  
Masses to sell *Trócaire's Gifts of Change*,  
meaningful gifts that make a real difference to  
families living in poverty around the world.  
If you would like to find out more about how  
you can help, please email Mark at

[mark.mcmahon@trocaire.org](mailto:mark.mcmahon@trocaire.org)

or call 028 9080 8030

# Sunday Message

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

THE WORD

Year C • 14 September 2025 • Colour: Red • Psalter Week 4



## THE TRIUMPH OF FAILURE

JN 3:13-17

*We live in a world that rewards success. And it seems easy enough to measure it.*

If you win gold in the Olympics, that's success. If you graduate from a top college with a first class degree, that's success. If you manage your team to league or cup glory, that's success. If you climb the corporate ladder and reach the top of your profession, that's success. If you have a bank account that keeps on growing, that's success.

Worldly success is measurable, quantifiable, and others can see it. Failure is measurable, too. We know failure when we see it. The difference between being successful and being a failure is obvious.

That's why on the face of it today's feast seems like some sort of contradiction. We are celebrating the exaltation of the cross. We are celebrating the triumph of something that was used as an instrument of execution. We are celebrating failure.

To be put to death on a cross was to come to the most ignoble end possible. It's what happened to thieves and murderers. It's how rabble-rousers and revolutionaries were dealt with. It was the fate of losers.

Death on a cross was something to be ashamed of, not glory in. It's why down the centuries so many people have had difficulty with a religion that exalts a cross.

But for us Christians there is no contradiction here. For us, the cross of Christ is something glorious, something to boast about, because it points to just how much God loves us.

In order to show us how to live, Jesus was prepared to risk everything, even life itself. He didn't have to do it – but he did. And God vindicated him by raising him from the dead. Tragedy turned to triumph, darkness to light, death to new life.

The cross of Christ has given us life and hope. By any reckoning, even if it cannot be measured on Wall St., that sounds like a definition of success. ■

## REFLECT

Every night when I was young, we prayed the Apostles' Creed as part of the family rosary. When I began to pay attention to the words, one line in particular struck me as odd, the line where it said of Jesus that he descended into hell. That didn't make sense to me. I understood hell as a place bad people were sent to for all eternity, a place that was impossible to escape from. You were condemned to hell because you deserved it, and you would be stuck there in agony forever. Innocent people didn't end up in that terrible place, so how then could the creed – our profession of faith – state that God's own son ended up there? Surely, some mistake.

Later, I learned that theologians understood this descent into hell as the period between Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection – the waiting period, the interregnum, between the darkness of Good Friday and the glory of Easter Sunday.

But it also has another more profound meaning. It describes Jesus' experience of total abandonment, loss, misery, suffering. It describes the utter devastation Jesus felt at the time of his passion and death. When we say, 'I'm going through hell,' that's what Jesus experienced. He went through hell – the anguish of torture and crucifixion, of being abandoned by his friends, even seemingly by God. Anyone who has suffered pain and heartbreak knows exactly what this is like. It reminds us that God's son entered

## SAY

Repeat today's entrance antiphon: "We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection: through him we are saved and made free."

## PRAY

In the second reading, St Paul quotes a hymn about Jesus, sung by the early Christian communities. It tells the story of God's Son, who came into the world and became like us, sharing our human nature. He went so far as to be executed as a criminal on a cross, and for his obedience God raised him up and made him higher than all creation. It's a beautiful hymn that sums up what we believe. Read it prayerfully today. Make it a profession of faith.

## DO

Many people wear a crucifix today as a fashion statement rather than a statement of faith. Do you have a cross or crucifix, and how do you use it?

## LEARN

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross marks two historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena on this date in 320 under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem, and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, marking the site of the crucifixion. This feast has been celebrated ever since, in praise of the redemption won for us by the cross of Christ.

fully into the human condition. Jesus has personal experience of abandonment, betrayal, humiliation, suffering and death. He went through hell for our sake, and so we can turn to him with confidence in our need. He knows what it's like to be miserable.

The next verse of the Apostles' creed states that, 'on the third day he rose again from the dead.' God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus passed through death to a new, glorified life and this is the promise of our faith. Whatever hell we go through, whatever setbacks or sufferings we endure as humans and Christians, we know that suffering and death do not have the last word. The cross of Christ has triumphantly opened for us the gates to eternal life. ■