

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

16th Sunday in ordinary time
20th July 2025

Weekend Masses

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

No Weekday Masses this week

**I will return from holiday
on Sat 26th Jul**

**In case of death or emergency sick calls
please try Fr Brian Brown 074 9673 1619**

Please book Anniversaries by email,
by leaving a message on the phone, or
by leaving a note through the letter box

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 19th Gerard & Margaret Quail
Maureen Shillington

Leitrim

Sat 19th Jacqueline Murphy
Brian Donnelly
Sat 26th Winnie, Barney & Shane Owens

Dromara

Sun 20th Maureen McKey
Sun 27th Hugh Pat McEvoy (*Artana*)
Edward, Catherine, Eamon &
Shiela Lundy (*Muninabane*)

Gargory

Sun 27th Mick McGreevy

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Stephen Sherry
07301246329 / safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Safeguarding Officer: Kate Mooney
07951981888 / kmooney@aracoeli.com

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish	£433	£1,484
Priest	£996	£1,411

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

Toilet at Dechomet Church

A new toilet space has been created
in the old hall, the door is opposite the
main door of the church.

Thank you to the local tradesmen who
completed the work so quickly.

TABLE QUIZ

Doyle's Bar, 90 Drumgooland Rd, Dechomet

Fri 25th July commencing at 8:30pm

Proceeds in aid of Lourdes Funds

Jubilee Event: St Anne's Day Sat 26th July

Mass at 6pm in Mayobridge Convent grounds
(weather permitting, otherwise St Patrick's Church)

Principal Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin

St Anne's Oil will be available on the day

St Anne's Shrine will be open from 8am until 10pm

Saints of the week

Mon 21st St Lawrence of Brindisi, 1559-1619

Capuchin, who preached the Counter-Reformation.
He led German armies against the Turks in
Hungary and gained peace for the people of Naples

Tues 22nd St Mary Magdalene

She stood by the Cross of Jesus; with two other
women she discovered the empty tomb; she
was granted an appearance of the Risen Lord early
the same day, from which incident she has been
described as 'the apostle to the apostles'.

The gospels give no warrant for identifying
her with the 'woman who was a sinner' who
anointed Christ's feet or with Mary the sister
of Martha who also anointed him.

Wed 23rd St Bridget

Born in Sweden in 1303. She brought up eight
children and founded the Bridgettine Order and
lived in Rome. She wrote many works about her
mystical experiences. She died in Rome in 1373.
She was declared a patron of Europe in 2000.

Sunday Message

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 20 July 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

A WOMAN'S PLACE

LK 10:38-42



Some years ago, a lay woman was invited to lead the singing at a big annual novena in a Redemptorist church. It meant that at one or more of the sessions each day she would climb into the pulpit and lead the congregational singing. She is an excellent singer and leads the congregation superbly.

But there was a problem. Some of those attending the novena were not happy with this development and phoned the monastery to express their displeasure. Redemptorist priests and brothers had traditionally led the singing at this event, and that's how these people wanted it to remain. They didn't want a lay person - and certainly not a woman - filling that role.

A woman leading the congregation in song at a Eucharist or novena isn't new or radical, but when something as minor as this can be such a big deal for some Catholics, it shows just how sensitive is the whole issue of women in ministry in the church.

It's something that is explored in today's Gospel story of the sisters, Martha and Mary. Martha is the organiser. She bustles around preparing a meal for their guests. Feeding at least 13 men with big appetites after a day on the road would set a challenge to the best housekeeper. There is no doubting her frustration when she looks around for her sister to give her a hand and finds she is sitting among the men instead.

In her frustration, Martha does something that could be considered bad manners. She involves the guest of honour in a family dispute. Jesus' reply is intended to appease her. Note the repetition of her name and the praise of her bustling around.

Some experts interpret Jesus' statement that Mary has chosen the better part as praise for the value of the contemplative life of prayer over the active life.

Another view is that the story reflects both the situation of women both in the life of Jesus and in the early church. The key to it is in the first words we hear about Mary: 'she was sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to him speaking.' 'Sitting at the feet' of a teacher was a technical phrase for becoming a disciple of a rabbi. Mary, like other women followers of Jesus, has chosen to become a disciple, and the first duty of a disciple is to learn from the teacher, to sit at his feet.

This story is telling us that Jesus welcomed the discipleship of women. He didn't send them off to the kitchen or expect them to stay in their place apart from the male disciples. Luke may have included it in his Gospel as a reminder that women's place in the church should not be confined to making and serving meals. Like the men, they are called first and foremost to be disciples, to sit at the feet of the Lord and to listen to the Word. This is the better part, and it mustn't be taken from them. ■

REFLECT

Today's Gospel challenges us - and the church - to think about the role of women. Women hold many ministries in the church - catechists, teachers, parish sisters, liturgists, musicians, singers, readers, servers, Eucharistic Ministers, theologians, students of theology - but many still feel as if they are relegated to the kitchen while men make all the big decisions. They feel like modern Marthas. The Catholic Church is a male-dominated institution, and it is extremely difficult for women - and indeed for laymen - to have any real say in it or exercise any real authority. That will always be the case as long as power is bound up with ordination rather than with baptism.

As you reflect on today's Gospel, recall the women whose discipleship of Christ has made your discipleship possible. How might our church make the best use of the gifts and talents of its female members? ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to take the time to listen attentively to you."

DO

Look at your work/life balance, your daily routine. Are you working too hard? Are you too busy? Do you allow for what is important in life? Reflect also on your treatment of others. Is it fair?

LEARN

As disciples of Jesus, we must strive for the quiet, listening attentiveness of the student. We need time and quiet to read and ponder the scriptures, to pray to reflect on the direction in which our lives are going. We also need the energy to work for the kingdom of God, whether it is in our professional life or in the generosity of offering our time and talents for the sake of our neighbour. In other words, we need to be both Martha and Mary.

PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you to have a deeper awareness of the needs of those around you.