

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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

Ascension of the Lord 17th 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

Open Meeting of all St Michael's Hall users Mon 18th May at 8pm. 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.

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 16th Mary & Arthur Burns
Mary Teresa Rooney

Leitrim

Sat 16th Nora McEvoy
Joe & Agnes McEvoy & Eilish Laverty

Wed 20th Patrick & Sean Cunningham

Sat 23rd Jim McAnulty (*Backaderry*)
& Deceased Family Members

Gargory

Sun 17th Brendan Owens
Owens Family (*Ballymaginthy*)

Dromara

Fri 22nd Nuala Davies
Sun 24th Seamus & Cecila McCullough
Maureen & Hugh McCann
Rosey Williams

International Day of Celebration

Mass and cultural celebration

Sun 14th June 12 noon

St Peter's Church, Lurgan

Theme: "*Belonging*"

All welcome

SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191 / Drumgooland 07825 419067

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329

safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Collections Parish	Dromara	Drumgooland
	£525	£889

Thank you for your continued contributions

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Talk by Pdraig Coyle **Mon 18th May 7:30pm**

Ballynahinch Parish Centre. Adm £1.

"The Life of Fr Patrick Kelly, Co Down priest and member of the French Resistance in WW2".

Fr Patrick Kelly was a native of Dree who was ordained in France in 1940.

All welcome.

Lough Derg Day of Friendship and Prayer with Archbishop Eamon Martin

Wed 20th May 10am to 3pm. Adm €25.

Advance booking is essential

www.loughderg.org

info@loughderg.org

Tel 00353 71 9861518

Cemetery Sunday 24th May

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

The day works well due to the many volunteers who help with parking of cars, collectors, readers, etc. If you can help in any way, please step forward. Parking for the less abled will be reserved as follows:

Finnis and Leitrim - church car parks.

Dechomet - front of the church (Closkelt Road).

Leitrim - for those who are less abled and wish to park in the car park, please be there by 2:45pm to ensure that you get parked.

There is plenty of space around the Parochial House, on the tarmac and on the grass, please use it, but leave the exits free.

Please co-operate with those who are generous enough to assist with the parking.

Please do not park in a way that blocks a private entrance.

A collection will be taken up at each of the services towards the cost of maintaining the cemeteries. Thank you to all who tidy up in the cemeteries. Please use the bins and skips provided or take the refuse home. Please do not put plastic wrapping, oasis, or plastic boxes in the brown bins.

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish
Ryan Patrick Doyle*

Sunday Message

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year A • 17 May 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 3



FAREWELL PROMISE

MT 28:16-20

Today's Gospel is Matthew's account of Jesus' final meeting with his disciples after the resurrection. It can be divided into two parts: a description of Jesus' meeting with the disciples and a set of Jesus' sayings.

The disciples set out for Galilee. By telling us that Jesus had arranged to meet them on a mountainside in Galilee, Matthew seems to be inviting us to go back to the beginning of the story. Two important scenes in his Gospel were set on mountains in Galilee. The first is the Sermon on the Mount; the second is the transfiguration. Today's scene is the final revelation of the earthly Jesus in the Gospel, and it looks back to both the moment of glory revealed in the transfiguration and to the teaching of the first great sermon.

Matthew describes the disciples' emotions when Jesus arrives. We might have expected them to be overjoyed. Instead, he says that some worshipped him by falling to the ground but some held back, still hesitating. Matthew is aware that the Christian community doesn't consist only of enthusiastic believers. It also includes 'people of little faith.' He doesn't say outright that they refused to believe, simply that they hesitated or doubted.

Jesus' words to the disciples can be divided into three sayings. The first is that the Father has given him all authority in heaven and on earth. One of the great points of conflict between Jesus and his opponents was the source of his authority: was it really from God? The reality of the resurrection would seem to have put an end to that debate.

In the next saying, Jesus transmits his authority to the disciples, telling them to "Go make disciples of all nations." This verse is sometimes known as the Great Commission. It is also the source of the Church's mission to the world. Jesus shared his authority with the disciples. They are to make disciples of all nations, baptise them and teach them to observe the commandments that Jesus first passed on to them.

The final saying of Jesus is a promise: "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." We might remember that when Jesus' birth was announced to Joseph, Matthew used a quotation from the prophet Isaiah: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." It is only now at the close of the Gospel that we hear another echo of that name. Emmanuel is not simply an ancient name for Jesus. It sketches out what Jesus will be in the future for those who follow him - an ever-present God of comfort and reassurance. ■

REFLECT

I'm not observant. I don't notice things. Often, I won't remember if someone I encountered had glasses, or whether a room had wallpaper or paint, or if it had a carpet. I've long thought I'd be hopeless in a court of law. Asked for details of an alleged incident, I'd struggle to provide them. I'd be no great assistance to an artist assembling an identikit of a suspect. Thank God, I've never been in that situation.

What do you think of when you hear the word 'witness'? Maybe, like me, you think court and court cases. Witnesses are important in court cases. The evidence of a credible witness can make all the difference. Barristers love when they have a powerful witness on their side.

The readings for the feast of the Ascension speak about being a witness, though not in the legal sense. Jesus is returning to his heavenly Father and, in his final message to his disciples, he promises them the gift of the Holy Spirit and then they'll be his witnesses. They will witness to him, from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. They will witness to Jesus' life, death and resurrection. "You shall be my witnesses," Jesus tells them.

And that is what they did. They witnessed to the Risen Lord beginning from Jerusalem. If they had not witnessed to the Good News, if they had not heeded Jesus' instruction, we wouldn't be here today. Christianity would have remained just another minor religious sect. It would have died with the apostles. We are called to follow the example of those first Christians by bearing witness to Jesus in our time and place. ■

SAY

"I thank you, Lord, for the gift of faith. Help me to witness to you every day. Amen."

DO

Think about your commitment to your baptismal promises. How well do you witness to the Gospel? Can people tell that you are a believer?

LEARN

Jesus assures his disciples that he will be with them to the end of time. It's his solemn promise to them - and to each of us, too. This promise is at the very heart of our faith.

PRAY

Pray for all those who find it hard to believe in the promise of Jesus that he is with them, that they will come to know that God is with them.