

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul

29<sup>th</sup> June 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

Sick and housebound will be attended this week

I will be on holiday from Mon 7<sup>th</sup> July until Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Jul

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Dechomet

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> James O'Hare  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Roseann McElroy MM

#### Leitrim

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Michael McElroy  
Terry Cunningham  
Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony, Eamon & Francie Clarke  
Brendan Ward  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sarah Lennon  
Margaret, Oliver & Gary Donnelly

#### Dromara

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Hugh McCoubry (*Derry*)  
Liz & Joseph Gordon (*Drumkeeragh*)  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Pat's John O'Hare (*Dree*) & Deceased  
Family Members  
Bernard Rice (*Dree*)  
Stephen O'Hare  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Margaret Marmion & Deceased  
Family Members

Gargory Altar Rota  
Jul - Phil

Dromara Collectors Rota  
Jul - Brian & Laurence

### SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Stephen Sherry  
07301246329/[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £389 £897

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

**Altar Servers** - over the summer months, some will be away on holiday or have a different routine at the weekends. If you are at mass please feel free to check if any altar servers are needed.

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish  
Leo William James Medland O'Reilly*

### *Wee James' Tractor Run 2025*

*Celebrating the life and 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday of James Malone*

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**Registration opens at 12:30pm**

The Mill, 50 Leitrim Road, Castlewellan

*Lorries & vintage vehicles welcome*

In aid of Southern Area Hospice Services

### **Whist Drive**

**St Michael's Hall, Finnis**

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm**

In aid of Kidney Research

Adm. £5. Please support.

### ***The Old Testament: Jesus' Bible*** *Genesis*

God creates man and woman and gives them divine friendship along with a world in which to enjoy it. But Adam and Eve choose to be little gods themselves; they abandon God's friendship and their innocence and their honesty. Made to be like God, humans decided to play at being God, refusing to be who they are - creatures. The "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" symbolises the limits of creaturehood.

### **St Oliver Plunkett - Tues 1<sup>st</sup> July**

Ordained in Rome in 1654, he became a professor of theology from 1654 until appointed Archbishop of Armagh in 1669. He ministered in Armagh, though forced to work in a covert way during the suppression of priests. He was arrested and tried at Dundalk in 1679 for conspiring against the state. He was found guilty of high treason 'for promoting the Catholic faith' and was condemned to a gruesome death. He was hanged, drawn and quartered on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1681 at Tyburn, in London. He is buried at Downside Abbey, England; his head is venerated in St Peter's Church, Drogheda



## TWO GREAT MARTYRS

MT 16:13-19

Jesus has been going around curing the sick and performing miracles, which has made him quite a celebrity. But he has also become a target, and those in authority are out to get him. They are trying to turn public opinion against him, and things are hotting up.

Jesus asks his disciples to be honest with him. He wants to know what people are saying about him. His friends are nervous and embarrassed. They fudge the issue and tell him only the good things.

Well, they begin, some say you are John the Baptist. Others that you are Elijah, while others think you're Jeremiah or one of the other great prophets.

But Jesus cuts to the chase: "What about you," he says. "Who do you say that I am?"

While the others stop to think about their response, Peter rushes forth with the winning answer. For him, Jesus is no mere prophet or returned figure from the past. He is the Messiah, God's own Son, the one whose coming the scriptures had foretold.

For the first time, it seems the disciples are beginning to recognise who Jesus really is. But events then take an unexpected turn, which no doubt leaves Peter dumbstruck.

Jesus blesses Peter for his answer, and gives him authority in the community. Peter will be the unshakeable rock upon which Christ will build his Church, Jesus says, and will hold the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Peter, and later Paul, knew that Jesus was their Lord and saviour. They spent their lives after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus preaching that Good News, building up the early Church. Both shared a martyr's death. Both were instrumental in laying the foundations for the Church we have today.

That is why we honour them with today's Solemnity. Like Peter and Paul, we know who Jesus is and we too are called to make him known as best we can. ■

### DO

Though leaders of the Church, Peter and Paul were both acutely aware of their faults and failings. They knew they were far from perfect. Think about your life. What are your failings? What do you need to do to be closer to God? From whom might you need to seek forgiveness?

### SAY

"Lord, I know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

### PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you to know who he is and to witness to him to the best of your ability, following the example of Peter and Paul.

### LEARN

God sees the potential in everyone

Each of us is called to build up the community of faith

The Christian is never too proud to seek and accept forgiveness

### REFLECT

As leaders of the early Christian community, Peter and Paul were wonderful teachers and witnesses to the Gospel. They instructed people by their words and actions. They offer us some essential lessons, too.

They teach us about humility. Because we are human, we are not perfect. Despite our best efforts, we mess up, we make mistakes. Sometimes we make big mistakes. Peter and Paul made big mistakes, too. When Jesus was arrested, Peter denied that he even knew Jesus. He was afraid to stand up and be counted. Paul eagerly persecuted the early Christians. He wanted to destroy the Church, to wipe out the Jesus movement before it gained in popularity. Yet both Peter and Paul went on to lead the Church and both were instrumental in building it up. Each died a martyr's death.

They could easily have given up and walked away, embarrassed by their behaviour, or they could doubled down, refusing to admit they had been wrong. Instead, they were humble enough to admit their mistakes, and to start over. They were humble enough to acknowledge their weaknesses and to learn from them. Peter and Paul teach us the importance of humility.

Peter and Paul also teach us about forgiveness. Because we are human, we can find it hard to forgive those who hurt us. We can also find it hard to forgive ourselves or to accept forgiveness when offered it. Both Peter and Paul had let God and themselves down badly. When they realised what they had done, they could have given into despair (as Judas Iscariot had done), and regarded their situation as lost. They could have refused to believe that God would give them another chance, that redemption was possible. Instead, they trusted in God's mercy and love, and having experienced God's forgiveness, they were able to forgive themselves and to start over as men made whole again. Without believing in and accepting God's forgiveness, without allowing it to transform their lives, they could never have become the extraordinary saints and martyrs we celebrate today.

Peter and Paul teach us about the transformative power of forgiveness offered and accepted. God is always ready to forgive us. Like the apostles, we just need to believe it and accept it. ■