

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in ordinary time**  
**16<sup>th</sup> November 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*



*Jim McEvoy, Castlewellan Rd, Gargory*  
*Elizabeth Travers, Islandmoyle*  
*Shane Fitzpatrick, Rathfriland*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Leitrim

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** Kieran McCrickard  
Rita O'Hare  
P D Cunningham  
**Mon 17<sup>th</sup>** Patrick & Susan Rice  
**Wed 19<sup>th</sup>** James & Ellen O'Hare  
Mick, Mary & Michael Cassidy  
**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>** Ryan, Hugh & Roseann Doyle

### Dromara

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup>** Mary McEvoy (*Ardtanagh*)  
& Bridget Gorman  
**Fri 21<sup>st</sup>** Seamus & Betty McEvoy & Deceased  
Family Members  
Deceased Members of Dromara CLG  
**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>** Patrick Moore MM

### Dechomet

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>** Mary Ellen O'Hare

### Gargory

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>** James & Doreen Gribben

## SVP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191/Drumg 07825 419067

## Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329  
[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

## Collections

## Dromara Drumgooland

Parish	£341	£998
Prop of Faith	£267	£513

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

## Do This in Memory

The preparation for First Holy Communion continues on **22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November**.

The children are asked to bring a leaf or a card with the name(s) of a loved one who has died.

## Pope John Paul II Award

Opportunities for young people, 16/17 years old, do you volunteer for a charity, your youth club, sports club or something else? Perhaps you help in your Parish? If yes, then you are welcome to sign up to the Pope John Paul II Award.

If you are not already a volunteer join us.

Signing up to the Award is a great way to become a volunteer, to meet other like-minded people and to make a difference.

If you want more information or to sign up, please email the Dromore Diocese Youth Director, Frances McNally on [youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org) or phone 028 30833898

## Mary's Meals - Double the Love

Mary's Meals is keeping the promise of a daily school meal to over 3 million children in 16 countries. Our *Double the Love Campaign* has just launched, and all donations will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.1million. Further details and Christmas Cards/Gifts available at [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) or Freephone 0800 698 1212

## SVDP Christmas Appeal 2025

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Last year **your kind donations raised £2,160** for the Christmas Appeal, this money and more was spent here in the parish.

If you wish to contribute, please take a blue envelope from the back of the chapel and return it to the collection boxes over the month of December.

Or you may wish to make a donation to

St. Patrick's Svp Drumgooland

Sort code 93-83-51

Account no. 07440031

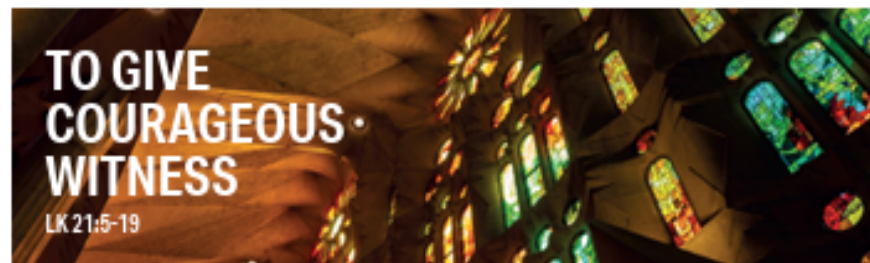
All your donations will be spent in this area.

# Sunday Message

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year C • 16 November 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his followers of tough times ahead. The Church should brace itself for a time of persecution. Its members will know betrayal, even from family members and close friends. Above all, its witness to the truth will make it highly unpopular. And so it has proven.

Countless Christians have given their lives for the Gospel over the centuries. If anything, the numbers are increasing. Remember Fr Jacques Hamel, the elderly French priest murdered in 2016 while he celebrated Mass in a Normandy church. Or the image of a long line of young men kneeling in an arid desert, each with an executioner standing behind him. They were martyred because they were Coptic Christians.

Martyrdom takes other forms, too. As Pope Francis states in *Gaudete et Exsultate*: "Persecutions are not a reality of the past, for today too we experience them, whether by the shedding of blood, as is the case with so many contemporary martyrs, or by more subtle means, by slander and lies. Jesus calls us blessed when people 'utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.' At other times, persecution can take the form of gibes that try to caricature our faith and make us seem ridiculous."

In our modern society, to say you are a Christian is to invite scorn. National and social media are especially hostile to the church and religion. It is a cold climate for people of faith.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the final beatitude refers to two types of persecution - martyrdom and suffering for the sake of the kingdom. It's unlikely we will be put to death for our faith, but it is likely we will be asked to suffer the second type of martyrdom - the opposition that comes from being identified as Christian.

Being a committed Christian isn't easy. "Jesus himself warns us that the path he proposes goes against the flow, even making us challenge society by the way we live and, as a result, becoming a nuisance," writes Pope Francis. "He reminds us how many people have been, and still are, persecuted simply because they struggle for justice, because they take seriously their commitment to God and to others. Unless we wish to sink into an obscure mediocrity, let us not long for an easy life, for 'whoever would save his life will lose it.'"

"In living the Gospel, we cannot expect that everything will be easy, for the thirst for power and worldly interests often stands in our way," warns Pope Francis. Living the Gospel "will be viewed negatively, regarded with suspicion, and met with ridicule."

"Whatever weariness and pain we may experience in living the commandment of love and following the way of justice, the cross remains the source of our growth and sanctification," Pope Francis continues. "We must never forget that when the New Testament tells us we will have to endure suffering for the Gospel's sake, it speaks precisely of persecution."

Jesus' final words in today's Gospel are consoling. God will take account of every witness given to the truth; none of it will be forgotten, for even the hairs of the believer's head are numbered. Endurance and patience will be the hallmark virtues of Christians under persecution. ■

### LEARN

The Christian witnesses to the faith at all times and in all places.

The Christian is happy to suffer for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

### PRAY

Pray for the Church and for Christians everywhere that they will always witness to and speak the truth, no matter how dangerous it may be.

### REFLECT

The monks had a major decision to make. An Islamic insurgency was taking place in Algeria, and many lives were being lost. A community of French Trappists had lived in the monastery of Tibhirine for decades, in harmony with the local Muslim population. Now, their harmony was being disrupted, and the monks had to decide whether to get out of the country. They chose to remain. Despite the growing danger, they decided to stand in solidarity with the townspeople. They agreed on the moral importance of maintaining their presence with the locals, even when faced with violence and death. On the night of 26-27 March 1996, terrorists seized seven of the monks and took them away. Two months later, their bodies were discovered. They had given their lives out of love for God and God's people. Their story is told in the beautiful film 'Of Gods and Men.'

Sixteen years earlier, American lay missionary, Jean Donovan, faced a similar dilemma. In 1980, El Salvador was in the middle of such a brutal civil war that the American Peace Corps withdrew their volunteers from the country. They were afraid Government death squads would target them. Jean's anxious parents wanted her to leave too. But she chose to stay. She wrote to a friend: "The Peace Corps left today and my heart sank low. The danger is extreme and they were right to leave... Now I must assess my own position because I am not up for suicide. Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor, bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them?"

Though afraid for her life, Jean overcame her fear and decided to stay. On 2 December 1980, she and three Maryknoll sisters were taken from their car and murdered by members of the El Salvadoran military. Jean was 27 years old when she became a martyr. Her story is told in the beautiful film 'Choices of the Heart.' ■

### SAY

"Lord, I thank you for my faith. Help me to live it courageously."

### DO

Speak to someone about why your faith is important to you.