

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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3rd Sunday of Lent

3rd March 2024

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

Fri 7:30pm Dromara

The **sick and housebound** will
be attended **this week**

Cemetery Sunday 26th May

ANNIVERSARIES

Dechomet

Sat 2nd Willie Rooney

Sat 9th Brian, Colm & Sr Josephine Rooney

Leitrim

Sat 2nd Francis & Margaret Smyth

Patrick McCartan

Wed 6th Cahal Ward

Sat 9th Patsy, Cissie & Colette McMullan

Barney O'Hare

Gargory

Sun 3rd Paschal King

Phyllis McAleenan

Dromara

Sun 3rd Margaret Mary Reavey MM

Pete & Kathleen Gilmore

Southern Area Hospice Services Camino Walking Trips 2024

Participants will take on the challenge of walking 113km, which begins in Sarria, ending in the beautiful city of Santiago de Compostela, to help raise funds for Hospice services.

Trips will take place from
1st - 8th May and **1st - 8th July**

To register your interest please contact

Emma on 028 3026 7711 or email

mcgiverne@southernareahospiceservices.org.

Collections Dromara Drumgooland
Parish £357 £863

Thank you for continuing to support your parish

The Five Consecutive First Saturday of the month devotions will continue on **Sat 2nd Mar** in Dechomet with confessions at 5:30pm, the 6pm Mass, followed by the Rosary and 15-minute meditation. Along with receiving Holy Communion, everything is offered in reparation to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart for peace, as requested in Fatima. Confessions can be obtained within 20 days.

Blessing and reception of the brown scapular of Mount Carmel will be offered directly after Mass. Leaflets are available at the back of the church and scapulars will be provided.

Parish Council Meetings

Drumgooland **Mon 4th Mar** 8pm

Dromara **Mon 11th Mar** 8pm

First Confessions

Tues 5th Mar St Matthew's, 7pm in Leitrim

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Mon 11th Mar 7:30pm

Newry Parish Centre

Local historian, Una Walsh, will speak on

"The legacy of Fr Tom in South Armagh:

Reflections on the life of Cardinal O'Fiaich."

All welcome.

The new **boxes of envelopes** will begin on **7th Apr**. Any person who wants a box of envelopes, wishes to pay monthly by standing order or to sign up for gift aid please email the parish.

Diocesan Safeguarding contact:

Stephen Sherry 073 0124 6329

Email: safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

SVP contact numbers

Dromara 077 3883 8191

Drumgooland 078 2541 9067

Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • 3 March 2024 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 3



DISTURBING THE PEACE

JOHN 2: 13-25

The surprising part of today's gospel reading is witnessing Jesus as being openly aggressive with the traders and operators of the Temple.

Huge sums of money exchange hands as official inspectors certify that the animals brought into the Temple are flawless. Temple priests create a system of trade that no owner of animals outside the Temple can compete with. It's no wonder Jesus angrily breaks the law and swings into action. God's house is being desecrated. This whole business is degrading to true religion. Jesus feels deeply the insult to his Father's house. Where there was peace, he brings total disruption. Where there was business as usual, he brings hostility. Jesus moves into the arena of the chief priests to work against the power that devalues his beliefs.

There is no politeness or subtlety about this scene. Jesus makes a whip to drive out the traders and cattle out of the temple. Knocking over tables of money. He raises his voice. Could we describe Jesus as aggressive? Perhaps. Certainly, there is an element of anger and impatience driving his actions. The bystanders and friends of Jesus are possibly surprised and taken aback by the change in his personality. If Jesus is worried about being arrested for disturbing the peace, no one could guess that from his behaviour. Jesus is consumed by zeal, by a passion that shows itself in positive aggression. The holy place is then reclaimed for the worship of God, but soon enough as John tells us, the Temple will be replaced by a new sanctuary where people can meet God in the person of the risen Jesus himself. ■

REFLECT

In the world of sports, especially team sports, you often hear it said about certain players, "he's a lovely fellow off the pitch, but on it, he's a nightmare." Some players go through a personality change as soon as they put on a jersey and take the field of play. There can be no talking to them, any attempt to reason with them as the game progresses, falls flat. Aggression, anger, competitive instinct, the need to conquer the opponent, the desire to win at all costs, usually means the best players become captains and leaders in their respective sports. Aggression is seen as a positive force, to be used for the benefit of the team.

It's often the case that today's Gospel reading has us looking at Jesus in a negative light. We see him bursting through the Temple like a hurricane, we never witness him lose control like this before. This doesn't look like the Jesus we have grown to love. But there is nothing negative about what happens here today. His actions are for the advancement of God's kingdom, and no other reason. He's aggressively fighting for his Church. God is not to be pushed to the periphery of the Temple but should remain at the heart of everything we do.

Some would say that the survival of our Church today depends on us, the people of God, taking on the mantle of leader, and using our own aggression for the advancement of God's kingdom. ■

SAY

'May we honour Your presence in our hearts, and offer pure worship, free from all distraction.'

LEARN

The Temple was a sacred place reserved for worship and prayer.

Jesus' actions underscore his authority as Son of God.

Jesus is the new temple, embodying the presence of God among humanity.

DO

Reflect this week on how you might take on a leadership role in your parish community.